



Department of Health

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Executive Deputy Commissioner

June 11, 2021

Coronavirus (COVID-19) Update

Dear Resident / Representative:

This letter is to provide you with an update on the status of the Veterans Home's efforts to prevent the spread of the coronavirus. The safety and wellbeing of all residents is our top priority. The Infection Prevention and Control Committee continues to meet at least weekly to review new federal and state guidance and work closely with the county, regional, and state health department contacts.

A total of forty-seven residents have tested positive since testing started. Sixty-seven staff have tested positive or presumptive positive since testing became readily available.

The Home received new guidance from New York State yesterday afternoon regarding testing. Staff testing will continue for all unvaccinated staff twice weekly. Screening of all staff and visitors will continue with rapid testing for any staff reporting symptoms prior to working. Resident testing will be targeted based on symptoms and if there is a positive case in the Home of a resident or a staff person.

There has been a significant drop in cases in the community and across the nation that is directly linked to the number of people who have been vaccinated. Over 93% of residents and 65% of staff have already been vaccinated, and we are still encouraging more to get the vaccine. Gift prize raffles will be held July 9th and all vaccinated staff and residents are eligible, so hopefully this will encourage more people to get the vaccination.

We are also changing our visitation requirements. Only 24 hours' prior notice is now needed before visiting, except Sunday. We have a dedicated person, Madison Baciуска, who is coordinating all in-person visits. Please call (607) 843-3100 and ask for Madison anytime between Monday through Friday from 8am - 4:30pm. If you are planning to visit on the weekends, please call Madison by Friday afternoon to make these arrangements.

Mask wearing, social distancing and hand hygiene must continue, as well as limited recreational programming and limited use of the communal dining space. Please let your Social Worker know if you have any questions or concerns.

Stay well,

Kurt D. Apthorpe

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