



## Department of Health

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Executive Deputy Commissioner

June 18, 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.

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.

Please consider getting a vaccine (or providing consent for your loved one, our resident) if you have not already done so. We will be giving out 5 - \$100 gift prizes in a raffle and all residents vaccinated by July 9<sup>th</sup> will be entered in the raffle.

All Neighborhoods are off of strict quarantine status as of today. Face masks and social distancing are still required along with proper hand hygiene.

As a reminder about visitation requirements: only 24 hours' prior notice is now needed before visiting, except the Sunday (which requires calling us by Friday). We have a dedicated person, Madison Baciуска, who is coordinating all in-person visits. Please call (607) 843-3100 and ask for Madison anytime 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.

Please let your Social Worker know if you have any questions or concerns.

Stay well,

*Kurt D. Apthorpe*

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