



## Department of Health

**ANDREW M. CUOMO**  
Governor

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Commissioner

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Executive Deputy Commissioner

July 9, 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.

All unvaccinated staff were tested 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.

The most current vaccinations rates indicate that 73.02% of staff and 94.61% of residents have been vaccinated. We continue to vaccinate residents and staff as requested.

As you are aware, Governor Cuomo lifted the Public Health Emergency effective June 25<sup>th</sup>, however the federal Public Health Emergency is still in effect. As such, we expect that some of the guidance and rules will soon change; however, the below requirements are still in place:

1. All infection prevention and control core practices (staff and visitor screening, wearing face masks at all times especially when out of resident rooms, physical distancing of at least 6 feet from others, and repeated hand hygiene/sanitizing).
2. Visitors are allowed to visit with residents in their room or other pre-designated area but should not be moving freely throughout the Home.
3. An outside patio area next to the gazebo has been designated for visitors to meet with residents outside. The front entrance is being kept open to residents only.
4. If the resident is fully vaccinated, they can choose to have close contact (including touch) with their visitors.
5. Visitors should physically distance from other residents and staff in the Home.

Should you have any questions or concerns, please contact your Social Worker.

Stay well,

*Kurt D. Apthorpe*

Kurt D. Apthorpe, MBA, LNHA, CNHA  
Administrator

NYS Veterans' Home

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