

Governor

HOWARD A. ZUCKER, M.D., J.D. Commissioner

LISA PINO, M.A., J.D. Executive Deputy Commissioner

September 3, 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.

There were no new positive cases this past week. A total of forty-seven residents have tested positive since testing started. Sixty-eight staff have tested positive or presumptive positive since testing became readily available.

We are continuing to educate unvaccinated staff about the benefits of vaccination, especially as we approach the New York State mandatory vaccination deadline (September 27, 2021) for health care workers. With the mandate just weeks away, we are urging unvaccinated staff to get vaccinated with at least one dose by September 27th with limited exemptions.

We will continue to monitor the positive cases in the community and surrounding areas, and we may make additional changes to our infection prevention and control practices as necessary. We will notify you of any changes.

With the Labor Day weekend upon us, we want to remind you that the Delta variant remains throughout the county and region so please take proper precautions and continue to practice the 3 W's:

Wash Your Hands Wear Your Mask Watch Your Distance

Finally, we want to recognize the significance of Labor Day. While it does represent the end of summer, it is also a day to reflect on the importance of our staff as they continue to achieve our mission. We are grateful that the Veterans Home's staff are dedicated and steadfast in all their actions as they provide compassionate care to your loved one. As we begin this holiday weekend, we acknowledge our caregivers and ancillary staff for all they do: every day, every shift.

As always, please contact your Social Worker for further assistance.

Stay well,

Noah P. Davis

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