



October 15, 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.

We have had four new staff and one new resident positive cases this past week. A total of forty-eight residents have tested positive since testing started. Eighty staff have tested positive or presumptive positive since testing became readily available. We will continue to test all residents and staff over the next two weeks due to the most recent positive case. Hawthorn Neighborhood is currently under quarantine through October 28th.

Due to the high level of COVID transmission in the community and the number of positive cases in the Home, especially of residents and staff who are already fully vaccinated, we must adjust our rules until further notice. Hawthorn Neighborhood is on quarantine, which means that residents must remain in their rooms. Meals will be brought to resident rooms on Hawthorn and group programs must be paused. All other Neighborhoods may continue with communal dining and group programs, but we need to pause Home-wide programs that involve residents of one neighborhood intermingling with residents from other neighborhoods.

We also need visitors to refrain from coming in to visit and to please use video chatting or other remote means to keep in touch with residents. Inside visits are limited to Compassionate Care and End-of-Life only. Outside visits may continue (excluding Hawthorn), but we ask that all visits be limited due to the current situation. If you would like to schedule a virtual visit you may contact the Recreation Therapy Department at 607-843-3177 or 607-843-3126. Please provide us with at least a days' notice to schedule these. All requests should be made by 3pm on Friday for any visits Saturday-Monday.

As always, please contact your Social Worker if you have any questions or for further assistance.

Best regards,

Kurt D. Apthorpe

Kurt D. Apthorpe, MBA, LNHA, CNHA

Administrator

NYS Veterans' Home

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