



November 12, 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 had 1 new positive staff and 8 positive resident cases this past week. This is a total of sixty-five residents and eighty-five staff who have tested positive or presumptive positive since testing became readily available. All positive residents remain in the COVID cohort on isolation in the Oak Neighborhood. Next week we will conduct two full-house rounds of resident testing and staff will also test twice.

This past week, two residents on comfort care who recently tested positive for COVID, died at the Home. We mourn the loss of life and on behalf of the facility, express our sympathy to the families.

Community COVID-19 positivity rates continue to be high, therefore, all Neighborhoods are on restriction with compassionate care and end-of-life visits only. We are still asking families to refrain from coming in to visit and to please use video chatting or other remote means to keep in touch with residents. 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 at least a days' notice to schedule these visits. All requests should be made by 3pm on Friday for any visits Saturday-Monday.

We celebrated Veterans Day yesterday by holding a virtual program using our new closed circuit television video system which broadcast the event to all residents throughout the facility. During the program I shared this statement from the Director of Health Facilities Management, Ryan Ashe, who oversees four of the State's Veterans Homes: "Throughout the last many months, we recognize that everyone, staff and residents, have persevered through difficult times. The commitment, perseverance, and passion that staff and residents have displayed is unparalleled and admirable. It is an honor to support this program and continue to work with you to provide the best quality of life for our Veterans and their family members." We look forward to holding an in-person Veterans Day program and celebration next year.

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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