



Department of Health

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Governor

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Commissioner

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Acting Executive Deputy Commissioner

December 10, 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 respond to our current situation, review new guidance, and work closely with our health department contacts.

We had two new positive staff cases this past week. This is a total of eighty-four residents and one hundred and one staff who have tested positive or presumptive positive since testing became readily available. While there are currently no positive residents, the end pod of rooms on the right side of Oak Neighborhood will serve as the COVID Cohort area if residents become positive in the future.

We are contact tracing all employee positives and closely monitoring the transmission of the virus in our community, Chenango County. The community transmission rate is still high and is now over 16%. We will continue to conduct additional resident and staff testing and will alert you of any positive results. Residents remain on quarantine until further notice. This includes staying in rooms, wearing a mask while outside of the room, and no communal dining or group activities.

All residents continue to be allowed to receive visitors, regardless of resident quarantine status. Due to the high community levels of transmission, visitors should be aware that there still exists the potential risk of being exposed to the virus during a visit. Visitors are required to be screened, tested when the clinic is open, only go to the specific resident room or visitation area, and follow all COVID-19 infection prevention principles and protocols. Video chatting or virtual visiting is still the preferred method of communication. If you would like to schedule a virtual visit, contact the Recreation Therapy Department at 607-843-3177. Please provide at least a days' notice to schedule this. All requests should be made by 3pm on Friday for any virtual visits planned for Saturday-Monday.

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

Respectfully,

Kurt D. Apthorpe

Kurt D. Apthorpe, MBA, LNHA, CNHA
Administrator

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