



Department of Health

KATHY HOCHUL
Governor

MARY T. BASSETT, M.D., M.P.H.
Commissioner

KRISTIN M. PROUD
Acting Executive Deputy Commissioner

December 17, 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 three new positive staff cases this past week. This is a total of eighty-four residents and one hundred and four staff who have tested positive or presumptive positive since testing became readily available.

We are contact tracing all employee positives and closely monitoring the transmission of the virus in our community, Chenango County. We conducted two tests of residents and required staff to test three times this week. We will continue this next week and will alert you of any positive results.

Residents are no longer required to remain on quarantine unless they have a specific infection that requires isolation. If not on an isolation precaution, residents may come out of rooms and participate in group activities and dining. Residents are asked to wear a mask while outside of the room and while participating in group activities.

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 still 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.

If you are planning to have a large group visit, please call and check with your Social Worker before visiting so we can ensure that there is an appropriate space available for you. The living room pods on the neighborhoods are generally reserved for resident group activities. There are other spaces that may be available in the Home, but please call ahead to confirm.

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
NYS Veterans' Home
4207 State Highway 220 | Oxford, NY 13830