



## Department of Health

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Acting Commissioner

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Acting Executive Deputy Commissioner

December 31, 2021

### **Coronavirus (COVID-19) Update**

Dear Resident / Representative:

As we begin the holiday weekend, we want to bring you up to date on the current situation at the Veterans Home. We are grateful to all of our families for your perseverance and strength throughout this pandemic.

The Veterans Home's efforts to prevent the spread of the coronavirus continue. 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 nine new positive staff cases and two new resident cases this past week. This is a total of eighty-six residents and one hundred and sixteen staff who have tested positive or presumptive positive since testing became readily available.

Residents on the Oak Neighborhood are in quarantine until further notice. Oak residents should remain in their rooms as much as possible or wear a mask at all times when out of their rooms. Staff and visitors will be required to wear an N95 mask and a face shield while on Oak. Residents will be required to wear masks in order for staff to be in their room to provide care. While fully vaccinated visitors and residents are allowed to take these off while in the resident's room with the door closed, everyone will still need to put them back on while staff are in the room.

We will continue testing residents and staff at least three times next week and will alert you of any positive results.

All other residents are being asked to wear a mask at all times when outside of resident rooms or when closer than 6 feet from others. As always, please contact your Social Worker if you have any questions or for further assistance.

Best wishes for a safe and healthy New Year!

Respectfully,

*Kurt D. Apthorpe*

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