



## Department of Health

KATHY HOCHUL  
Governor

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

KRISTIN M. PROUD  
Acting Executive Deputy Commissioner

January 14, 2022

### Coronavirus (COVID-19) Update

Dear Resident / Representative:

The Veterans Home's efforts to prevent the spread and impact of the coronavirus continue. The safety and wellbeing of all residents is our top priority. The Infection Prevention and Control Committee continues to meet regularly to respond to our current situation, review new guidance, and work closely with our health department contacts.

We had ten new positive staff cases and one resident reinfection this past week. This is a total of eighty-six residents and one hundred and thirty-six staff who have tested positive or presumptive positive since testing became readily available.

The positive resident lives on Hawthorn Neighborhood and will remain in the negative pressure room on that neighborhood. While we are not required to quarantine anyone else, we are asking residents to try not to leave their room as much as possible. Residents should wear a mask at all times when out of their rooms or when closer than 6 feet from others.

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

We will be setting up enhanced visitor testing to allow for visitors to self-test if the clinic is not open. In addition, we will be allowing visitors to provide proof of a negative rapid antigen (at home) test done within 24 hours of a visit or proof of a negative PCR test done within 48 hours of a visit. We will issue specific directions as we implement these changes.

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