



Department of Health

KATHY HOCHUL
Governor

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

KRISTIN M. PROUD
Acting Executive Deputy Commissioner

February 18, 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 three new positive staff cases and no new resident cases this past week. This is a total of eighty-seven residents and one hundred and sixty staff who have tested positive or presumptive positive since testing became readily available. We will continue with outbreak testing of residents and staff twice next week and will alert you of any positive results.

The community positivity rate, while coming down, is still at a high level. We ask residents to continue to try not to leave their rooms as much as possible because we are still in outbreak status and the County virus transmission rate remains high. Residents should wear a mask at all times when out of their rooms or when closer than 6 feet from others.

We are preparing to move the testing clinic out of the auditorium to allow larger resident group activities to resume in the auditorium while continuing to follow universal infection control practices. The testing clinic is phasing down and will soon be no longer available for visitors. We will announce when the testing clinic closes, likely by March 1st. The self-testing stations in the lobby will continue to be available and at-home rapid tests will be provided to visitors, as needed, to help visitors avoid traveling to the Veterans Home and then having to leave if the test is positive.

We will accept a negative result from a rapid test done outside the Home within 24 hours of the visit or a negative PCR test done within 48 hours of the visit. Security will continue to require that visitors complete a self-testing attestation form prior to the visit.

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

Respectfully,

Kurt D. Apthorpe

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Administrator
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