



## Department of Health

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Acting Executive Deputy Commissioner

September 23, 2022

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

Dear Resident / Representative:

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

We had no resident and six staff test positive this past week. We have had eighty-seven residents and two hundred and twenty-seven staff who have tested positive or presumptive positive at least once since testing became readily available.

The COVID transmission level in Chenango County is still high. Staff not up-to-date on their COVID vaccinations will continue to be tested twice a week and we will alert you of all positive results.

The Centers for Disease Control & Prevention (CDC) recently announced new COVID-19 booster recommendations. The CDC is recommending the bivalent vaccine for individuals 12 years and older. The updated Pfizer-BioNTech vaccine is authorized by the Food & Drug Administration (FDA) for individuals 12 years and older and the updated Moderna vaccine is authorized for individuals 18 years and older. Both vaccines target Omicron B.4 and B.5 variants. Though the new bivalent boosters are not yet widely available, they are the only mRNA boosters authorized at this time, as FDA has withdrawn authorizations of the previous monovalent vaccines for use as boosters. Residents may receive an updated (bivalent) booster 2 months after completion of the primary series or 2 months after the most recent booster. The Veterans Home now has access to both bivalent boosters. Please review the attached fact sheets and let us know if you are interested in receiving the new bivalent booster.

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

Respectfully,

*Kurt D. Apthorpe*

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