



Department of Health

KATHY HOCHUL
Governor

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

KRISTIN M. PROUD
Acting Executive Deputy Commissioner

October 14, 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 10 resident and 12 staff test positive this past week. We have had ninety-nine residents and two hundred and forty-seven staff who have tested positive or presumptive positive at least once since testing became readily available.

Oak and Hawthorn Neighborhoods are quarantined until October 27th. The guidance for quarantining has changed over the course of this pandemic. For example, we are no longer required to move residents out of their rooms and into a separate Cohort area until they recover. Certain requirements must continue, such as isolating positive residents in their rooms until cleared by their medical provider. We encourage you to ask questions.

When outside of a resident room, everyone needs to wear a mask. Surgical masks are required when moving through the main common areas of the Home, such as the lobby and hallways leading to/from the Neighborhoods, and on Pine Neighborhood. All staff and visitors to Oak and Hawthorn Neighborhoods need to continue to wear additional Personnel Protection Equipment (PPE). This includes eye protection/face shields and N95/KN95 masks. Additional PPE may be needed if entering resident rooms on transmission-based precautions. Please watch for these signs posted at resident room doors and do not hesitate to ask the staff if you have a question.

The COVID transmission level in Chenango County is still high. We will continue to test residents every 3 days, when symptomatic, exposed to someone with COVID-19, or returning from a furlough or hospitalization after more than 24 hours. All staff will also be tested every 3 days. Testing for everyone will continue until we have 14 days without a positive case acquired in the Home. You will be notified of all positive results.

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

Respectfully,

Kurt D. Apthorpe

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