



Department of Health

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Executive Deputy Commissioner

April 16, 2021

Coronavirus (COVID-19) Update

Dear Resident / Representative:

This letter is to provide you with an update on the status of the Veterans Home's efforts to prevent the spread of the coronavirus. The safety and wellbeing of all residents is our top priority. The Infection Prevention and Control Committee continues to meet regularly to review new federal and state guidance and work closely with the county, regional, and state health department contacts.

A total of forty-six residents have tested positive since testing started. Resident molecular (PCR) laboratory testing continues and combined with rapid antigen testing to conduct at least two times weekly testing and more for targeted testing.

We continue to test staff at least twice weekly in order to identify any new cases as soon as possible. Sixty-three staff have tested positive or presumptive positive since testing became readily available.

Please let your Social Worker or Nurse know if you would like to consent to have your loved one, our resident, receive the COVID-19 vaccination. There are only a few residents who have chosen not to be vaccinated, but we are still providing it to those who would like to be vaccinated.

All Neighborhoods are under strict precautions until April 29th due to a new positive case. General visitation is suspended while outbreak testing is done to determine if anyone else tests positive. Compassionate care visits are allowed to continue without restriction.

The visitation program has changed, and will include extended visitation times. Upon resumption of visitation, we ask that you continue to contact the Home at least 72 hours prior to visiting so we can ensure staff are able to support the visit. Please review the updated Visitor Fact Sheet and be aware that you will be expected to only go to and from the area that has been designated for your visit. Strict infection control practices must continue to be maintained during visits.

Please let your Social Worker know if you have any questions or concerns.

Sincerely,

Kurt D. Apthorpe

Kurt D. Apthorpe
Administrator
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