



Department of Health

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Commissioner

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Executive Deputy Commissioner

May 22, 2020

Coronavirus (COVID-19) Update

Dear Resident / Representative:

On behalf of the Veterans Home and the staff, we are thinking of you and your families as we all cope with the coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic.

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 nursing and medical staff continues to aggressively test and monitor all residents. We have conducted over 200 tests on residents to date. A total of twenty residents have tested positive since testing started along with one resident who was presumed to be positive. We continue to cohort residents with the virus, monitor everyone closely and maintain strict infection control procedures to stop the spread of the virus. Five residents have recovered so far.

The Governor also issued an Executive Order which requires all nursing home staff to be tested regularly for the virus, so the Veterans Home has initiated regular, routine staff testing. Since testing began, we have had six employees test positive, three have since recovered and have returned to work.

If a resident has a positive test result or a resident with the virus dies, or if a group of three or more residents or staff with new onset of respiratory symptoms occurs within 72 hours of each other, we will notify the resident's family immediately and we will also send a notice to everyone else by listserv. We will continue to post the notice on our website as well. Resident representatives will also receive a text message/phone message that will also update you. Residents will continue to receive hand-delivered notices and are also invited to sign up for the listserv.

Finally, Resident Council meetings have resumed using the Zoom application on personal computers and iPads. Residents are encouraged to use the Home's iPads to participate in Council meetings and also to video chat with friends and family. Window visits are allowed, but please call ahead and make arrangements with staff before visiting.

If you have any questions, please let us know.

Sincerely,

Kurt D. Apthorpe

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