



Department of Health

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Executive Deputy Commissioner

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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 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 completed over 800 tests, with eight employees test positive, and three have since recovered and 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 have also been receiving a text message/phone message that updates you. We apologize for the phone messages that are not always clear and is not easy to understand as well as the text messages. If there is any question about them, please call us. Residents will continue to receive hand-delivered notices and are also invited to sign up for the listserv.

Residents have been allowed access to designated outside areas now that the weather is nice. Please do not attempt visits with residents, who are outside, because this type of visit is still not acceptable. Window visits are allowed, but please call ahead and make arrangements with us before visiting.

If you have any questions, please let us know.

Sincerely,

Kurt D. Apthorpe

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