



## Department of Health

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Executive Deputy Commissioner

August 31, 2020

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

Dear Resident / Family Member:

As we begin this week, the Administrative and Clinical teams wish to keep you informed on the everchanging response and status of the COVID-19 virus at the New York State Veterans Home at St. Albans.

This letter is an addendum to the letter you received during the week of August 24<sup>th</sup> regarding our plans to allow for window visits with your loved one. We are grateful to all families for your continued cooperation. The Home continues to follow the guidelines established by Governor Cuomo, the New York State Department of Health (DOH) and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). The reopening for visitation requires the facility to be at least 28 days without any positive COVID-19 cases for staff or residents.

As of today, the Veterans Home is experiencing a number of new positive COVID-19 cases among staff. The staff who are positive are asymptomatic but are out of work at home on mandatory quarantine. Staff must receive a negative test after 14 days of quarantine and be cleared by a physician prior to returning to work.

As a precaution, we have quarantined all units and restricted all residents to their own rooms where feasible for a minimum of fourteen (14) days. As such, the postponement of the plan to allow window visits will extend through Wednesday, September 16, providing we have no additional staff or residents testing positive.

We will continue to keep you updated by mail, when possible, and we request that you check our website at [www.nysvets.org](http://www.nysvets.org) for further updates.

Cordially,

*Neville A. Goldson*

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