



Margaret D. LaBrecque
Commandant

New Hampshire Veterans Home

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Dear Residents and Families –

In these unprecedented times, I am reaching out to keep you up to date with information about procedures we have implemented to keep your Veteran healthy.

We continue to operate under Governor Sununu's declared State of Emergency due to the novel coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic. The ability to once again visit the NH Veterans Home will be addressed by the Governor and the NH Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS) by May 4, 2020. In the interim, we continue to address the many facets of the pandemic daily and work hard to protect our Veterans; it is our top priority. I continue to communicate regularly with the Governor and his staff to keep abreast of the latest information. Our Infection Control Coordinator also remains in close contact with the DHHS professionals.

As mentioned in our letter last month, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) states that nursing home populations are at the highest risk of being affected by COVID-19, including being at increased risk of serious illness if infected with the virus that causes the disease. We continue to closely monitor recommendations made by the CDC, DHHS, and the Governor's Office, and continue to implement all possible measures for our Veterans' health and safety. One such measure is to screen all employees as they enter the building; we check temperatures and ask screening questions provided by the CDC.

Cleanliness and disinfecting remain a priority. Our Xenex ultraviolet light germ-killing robot works to cover smaller enclosed areas while the Clorox magnetic spray machine is utilized for open areas. Approved disinfectants are used throughout the facility, especially in high-touch areas.

We continue to conduct scheduled activities, as they are an important part of residents' quality of life. These activities have been reviewed for optimal benefits while considering safety; social distancing and disinfection of shared objects is incorporated. Photos of residents at some of these activities continue to be posted on our Facebook page (www.facebook.com/nhveteranshome) for you to enjoy.

Video visits brighten your Veteran's day. If you would like to schedule one of these visits, or have any questions about your loved one, feel free to connect with one of our social workers:

- Nancy Waugh, Life Enhancement Dementia Unit (LEDU) – Ground Level: (603) 527-4878
- Stephanie Libby, LEDU – First Floor & Highland Hall: (603) 527-4432
- Kristen Montour, Tarr South and Cardigan Hall: (603) 527-4422
- Melissa Libby, Tarr North: (603) 527-4812

If you would like to seek out more information on COVID-19 in NH, please visit www.nh.gov/covid19. For the latest information from the CDC, visit www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/.

We remain focused on living our mission of providing the best quality of life for NH Veterans with dignity, honor and respect. During this pandemic and always, we wish you and your family good health.

Sincerely,

Margaret D. LaBrecque
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