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Dear Residents and Families –

As the novel coronavirus (COVID-19) media coverage continues to remain widespread, I am connecting with you to provide a direct update on the New Hampshire Veterans Home.

First, the reports of **outbreaks** at congregate living facilities are very concerning. Our hearts go out to the facilities' residents, families, and employees affected by this virus. We continue to be very thankful that our residents and employees have not experienced any positive COVID-19 test results. Rest assured that we do not take this for granted, especially given the volatility of this disease. All precautions continue to be taken to keep our Home healthy.

Another topic discussed in the media is that of businesses starting to **reopen** in phases, beginning with those able to practice social distancing. Although the state is starting to reopen, please note that due to the continued risks of possible transmission to our veterans, we do not foresee an end to our Home's visiting restrictions any time soon. We understand and appreciate that it is not easy to stay distanced from loved ones, especially for a period of months. On the bright side, our practices have kept our veterans healthy. We have been able to avoid possible COVID-19 exposure because of the precautions we have taken while practicing our conservative approach. While we do not have any cases of the virus to report and 'knock on wood' this does not change, we sincerely appreciate your understanding of our need to make these difficult decisions in the best interest of our residents and employees' health.

Finally yet importantly, other popular media topics involve **Personal Protective Equipment (PPE)** and **face masks**. Thankfully, we have a sufficient supply of these items due to numerous sources: our valued volunteers and family members, generous employees, donors, vendors, and the State of NH, including the Governor's Office and the Department of Health and Human Services.

As always, to stay connected with us on our 'media', we invite you to follow us on our social media sites. There you will find many pictures on our Facebook page (www.facebook.com/nhveteranshome) and videos on our YouTube channel. The videos include a potpourri of playlists of our virtual ceremonies, a special 'through the glass' bagpipe visit, a glimpse at a donation, and more. Simply search for "New Hampshire Veterans Home" on www.youtube.com.

For up-to-date COVID-19 information, the NH Department of Health and Human Services and Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) are the best resources. Their websites provide regular updates on this ever-changing health concern. Visit www.nh.gov/covid19 or www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/.

We are here for you as well as for your loved one! Please let us know if you have any questions; we can be reached at (603) 527-4400. We hope you and your family are healthy and stay safe.

Sincerely,

Margaret D LaBrecque
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