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Commandant

New Hampshire Veterans Home

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July 29, 2020

Dear Residents and Families –

New Hampshire Veterans Home (NHVH) is investigating three possible, unrelated, employee cases of coronavirus (COVID-19). To date, no residents have tested positive.

All three staff members are being re-tested for the virus. Two of the re-tests are with the State of NH. As you may be aware, the State cancelled the contract with the lab that completed the original testing and is re-testing positive and inconclusive results from that laboratory.

It is thought the three employee cases are unrelated as these individuals have had little interaction with each other.

Out of an abundance of caution, NHVH immediately instituted the following outbreak procedures per NH Department of Health and Human Services' (DHHS) Division of Public Health Services (DPHS) guidance:

- The indoor/outdoor visitation program is suspended; compassionate care and end-of-life visits will continue to be scheduled
- Staff and resident screening and testing protocols will be ongoing
- All staff are now wearing surgical masks

We anticipate the results of the three employee re-tests by Saturday. In the interim, we continue to address the many facets of the virus and work diligently to protect our Veterans.

We continue to screen all employees as they enter the Home and offer our staff on-site, weekly COVID-19 testing. Cleaning and disinfecting remain a priority with our Xenex ultraviolet light germ-killing robot, our Clorox magnetic spray machine, and with disinfectants approved to kill the virus.

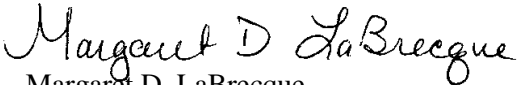
It is also important to remember that a person may be a carrier of the virus and not show any symptoms. Additionally, symptoms of the virus may appear up to 14 days after exposure. These factors, coupled with increases in community-based transmissions in all NH counties, make it possible for diligent employees to become unknown and unwilling carriers of the virus.

I continue to communicate regularly with the Governor and his staff. Our Infection Control Coordinator also remains in close contact with the NH DHHS professionals. We will continue to keep you informed, as well.

Should you have any questions, please reach out to our social workers using their direct contact information or by calling (603) 527-4400. If you would like more information on COVID-19 in NH, visit www.nh.gov/covid19. For the latest CDC information, 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.

Sincerely,


Margaret D. LaBrecque
Commandant