



Margaret D. LaBrecque
Commandant

New Hampshire Veterans Home

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Dear Residents and Families –

We continue to address the many facets of the novel coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic daily and work hard to protect our Veterans. It is our top priority. Our experience managing respiratory infections and outbreaks among residents and staff have been applied. Despite implementing all possible preventative measures, it is with sadness and frustration that we report positive COVID-19 test results received from resident tests today. We remain optimistic for recovery while understanding this disease can become devastating at a moment's notice. Family has been notified and we are doing our best to mitigate the risk of spread and to protect the health and safety of residents and staff. The residents are in private rooms in their neighborhood without contact with residents in other neighborhoods. Staff have been dedicated solely to their care and are fully equipped with personal protective equipment (PPE).

Our employee COVID-19 tests continue to render negative results. Therefore, you may be asking how a resident could become infected. 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.

We screen all employees as they enter the Home and follow protocols for screening residents. Employees continue to wear surgical face masks and eye protection when in close proximity to a resident or while in a resident area. Staff and residents are reminded to practice healthy habits including covering coughs and sneezes and to wash hands thoroughly and frequently. 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.

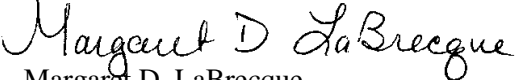
This virus is highly contagious. The vast majority of our residents are elderly and may have medical conditions putting them at a very high risk of becoming sick, or even severely ill, with COVID-19. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) has recognized nursing home populations to be at the highest risk of being affected by COVID-19. We continue to implement recommendations as they are presented by the CDC, the NH Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS), and the Governor's Office, to implement all possible measures for our Veterans' health and safety. These safety measures include the postponement of in-person visits.

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