



New Hampshire Veterans Home

139 Winter Street
Tilton, NH 03276



Margaret D. LaBrecque
Commandant

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February 1, 2021

Dear Residents and Families –

As we rounded out the first month of our new year, it is with cautious optimism that we report we have not had a positive resident COVID test result since December 31st. Thankfully, on Tuesday, the State of New Hampshire, Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS) announced the end of our outbreak! Brighter times are ahead. Residents and employees have received two doses of the COVID-19 vaccine and employees who were previously out of work due to the virus have now returned.

Now that we are no longer battling the virus in house, we are carefully reinstating activities. Banquet tables are a beacon of hope in our dining rooms as they allow for six feet of social distancing while residents eat enjoying each other's company. Resident activities can now transition from an individual basis to groups of less than 10. And, we are also able to resume window visits. These visits can be scheduled by contacting Carolee Sliker, Recreation Secretary, at (603) 527-4816 or email carolee.sliker@nhvh.nh.gov. Possible window visit times include *weekdays*: 10 or 11 AM, 2 or 3 PM, and *weekends* at 10 AM for residents Life Enhancement Dementia Unit (LEDU) or 2 PM for the Tarr neighborhoods. Tarr visits will again be held at the Town Hall large window (located at the back side of the building accessible from Colby Road) and for LEDU near the Main Entrance (accessible from Winter Street). Your loved one will be on a speaker phone from inside the window. Please bring a cell phone, wear warm clothes and bring a blanket. An outdoor chair is available to use, but you may be more comfortable bringing a cloth, 'camping' type chair.

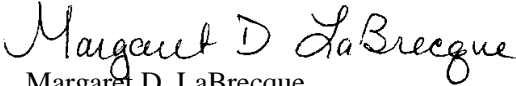
Recommendations are constantly changing. As vaccine becomes more available, we continue to keep abreast of the latest public health recommendations to see about possible changes to in-person visits in the future.

All but one county in our state (Grafton County) continue to experience high community spread of the virus. Although Belknap County no longer tops the list with the highest rate, we are still above the 10% threshold, currently at 12.6%. We remain vigilant with masks, hand washing and social distancing. We continue to work very closely with DHHS to conduct recommended, twice weekly surveillance testing. Due to the high community transmission rates, hand-to-hand transmission is still a concern. Therefore, we encourage using a postal service to mail items to your loved ones.

The New Hampshire National Guard was a tremendous help to us during the outbreak. Although their departure from our home is a sign of better times, we miss them this week as they began new assignments elsewhere. We are extremely thankful for their assistance with COVID testing, vaccine administration, one-on-one visits with residents, and more.

Last but not least, I would like to remind all that our family information sessions continue to be very helpful for information sharing. These 'meetings' began during the virus outbreak. We look forward to continuing them twice in February and then monthly on the last Wednesday beginning in March. Should the need arise, we will pivot back to more frequent meetings. If you haven't already, I invite you to contact our Public Information Officer, Sarah Stanley, at (603) 527-4425, sarah.stanley@nhvh.nh.gov, for more information. If you are unable to attend, you are welcome to keep abreast of the information by receiving the written notes of the discussions.

Sincerely,


Margaret D. LaBrecque
Commandant