



Margaret D. LaBrecque  
Commandant

## New Hampshire Veterans Home

139 Winter Street  
Tilton, NH 03276



Telephone: (603) 527-4400  
Fax: (603) 286-4242

February 19, 2021

Dear Residents and Families –

We are happy to share the NH Department of Health and Human Services' (DHHS) information of the Belknap County positivity rate being below 10%. As I write to you, our veterans are enjoying resumed social activities (while maintaining safety protocols). These activities, as well as communal dining and coffee socials, provide camaraderie and many smiles that are so great to see.

Due to the decrease in community transmission rates, you are welcome to once again drop off items for your loved one. Also due to the decreased spread, we are excited to resume limited, in-person visits. As we hope for sustained, lower county positivity rates, we continue to follow protocols to keep your veteran safe. Please see the important information below.

**Please keep this letter. It contains important information to reference *prior to, during, and after* your visit.**

### Who is able to visit? Where will visits be held?

Residents and family members who are able to wear a surgical mask (face covering) over their nose and mouth for a 30-minute visit and comply with hand hygiene are able to visit during these limited visits. During winter months, **indoor** visits are being scheduled in the Tarr South Conference Room. In the future, dependent on timing and the weather, we may once again schedule **outdoor** visits under our pavilion.

Up to two visitors who are over the age of 12 are welcome to visit at a time. Please be sure all visitors, including youth and young adults, are able to wear a surgical mask face covering for the 30-minute visit. Special family circumstances may enable us to permit a child under the age of 12 to visit; these requests are reviewed on a case-by-case basis by the Nurse Manager.

### What will visitors need to do to keep veterans safe?

We know how tempting it is to give your loved one a hug or hold their hand. We are following Centers of Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and DHHS directives that prohibit physical contact and require at least six feet of space be consistently maintained between visitors, staff and residents at all times. Designated seating will help remind everyone present of the safe distances. Additionally, NH Veterans Home staff will be present to ensure that the social distancing space is maintained. Please be aware that if any member of the party is unable to maintain the visitation guidelines, the visit may be brought to a close.

To ensure we are compliant with the directives for all to follow, visitors also agree to:

- schedule a visit in advance with Recreation Therapy by submitting a completed N-G 157 Limited Visitation Declaration Form **for each visitor** (the enclosed form is also available on our website at [www.nh.gov/veterans](http://www.nh.gov/veterans)). The form has been updated; if you submitted a form last year, please submit a new form when scheduling your visit.
- provide contact information to enable accurate public health contact, should the need arise.
- sanitize their hands:
  - before and after the visit, and
  - before and after touching their eyes, nose, mouth, or face, or adjusting their face mask.
- wear a surgical mask face covering over their **nose and mouth** at all times during the visit.
  - visitors are asked to arrive wearing a surgical mask; if you do not have one, the Home will provide one.
- leave four-legged family members at home; pets just don't understand socially distancing.
- refrain from bringing outside food or drink to your visit; consuming items requires removing masks
- be screened for COVID-19 symptoms and risk factors at the time the visit is scheduled **and** upon arrival for the visit; questions include:

- **Do you have any of the following symptoms:** fever (100° or higher), respiratory symptoms such as runny nose, nasal congestion, sore throat, cough, or shortness of breath; whole body symptoms such as muscle aches, chills, severe fatigue, new gastrointestinal symptoms (nausea, vomiting, diarrhea); or changes to the sense of taste or smell.
- **Have you had COVID-19?** If you have, please ensure at least 24 hours have passed since your fever has subsided without the use of fever-reducing medicines and improvement in respiratory symptoms (e.g., cough, shortness of breath,); and, at least 10 days have passed since symptoms first appeared.
- **Have you been in close contact with** someone who is suspected or confirmed to have **COVID-19** in the past 14 days?
- In the past 14 days, **have you traveled:** internationally (outside the U.S., including Canada); by cruise ship; or domestically (within the U.S.) outside of NH, VT, or ME, or on public transportation (e.g., bus, train, plane, etc.)?

**When are visits and how are they scheduled?**

Limited Visits will continue while the Belknap County community transmission rates continue to remain below 10% and the NH Veterans Home remains without active COVID-19 cases. Visits will resume beginning **Wednesday, February 24<sup>th</sup>** during the following times:

Tarr Residents      *Monday – Friday: 10 a.m., 1:15 p.m.      Saturday & Sunday: 1:15 p.m.*

LEDU Residents      *Monday – Friday: 11 a.m., 2:15 p.m.      Saturday & Sunday: 11 a.m.*

(An additional time of 6:30 p.m. may be available during the week; feel free to inquire.)

This schedule may change to accommodate future needs. When you are ready to schedule your visit, complete the enclosed Limited Visitation Declaration form(s) and submit via email, mail or bring to the NHVH (contact information is listed on the form). Visits will be scheduled after receiving the completed form(s). Additional forms are available on our website at [www.nh.gov/veterans](http://www.nh.gov/veterans). If you have questions, feel free to call Recreation at (603) 527-4816.

**Where do I go for my scheduled visit?**

When you arrive for your visit, drive to the main entrance on Winter Street. Park in the designated visitor parking, then enter in the front doors (door #2). We will meet you at the door, complete the in person screening, and then bring you to meet with your veteran.

**Other important information:**

A NHVH staff person will be respectful of your privacy while remaining close by if any assistance is needed. The staff person will ensure safety is maintained for the duration of the visit, including ensuring surgical masks are worn, participants practice good hand hygiene, and social distancing is maintained. We will also clean and disinfect all surfaces before and after each visit.

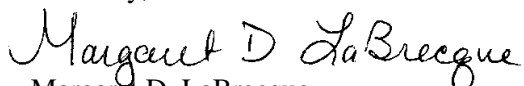
After visiting, we ask that you self-monitor for possible COVID-19 symptoms and let Angela Hawthorne, our Infection Control Nurse, know **immediately** if you do experience these symptoms within two days of your visit. Angela can be reached at (603) 527-4864.

Please note that our ability to schedule visits depend on many factors, including how your veteran is feeling, visiting space availability, and staff availability.

We continue to receive CDC and DHHS updates and will make changes to visits whenever needed. DHHS is working on proposed new guidance to include the latest science surrounding the pandemic as it relates to vaccine and in-person visits. As of this time, visiting policies have not changed. We continue to keep abreast of the latest public health recommendations and will continue to keep you informed, as well.

We know how excited your loved one will be to see you! In addition to your veteran, we also look forward to seeing you.

Sincerely,



Margaret D. LaBrecque  
Commandant



New Hampshire Veterans Home  
Limited Visitation Declaration Form

N-G 157

INSTRUCTIONS: Each visitor must complete a copy of this form and submit it to NHVH using the contact information listed at the bottom of this form.

Pre-Visit Screening:

I agree to complete the NHVH screening (below) and answer follow up questions if needed. In addition, I agree to receive a second screening on the day of the visit which includes having my temperature taken prior to my resident visit.

\_\_\_\_\_  
(initials)

1. Have you had any of the following symptoms:

Y or N Fever (feeling feverish or a documented temperature of 100° degrees Fahrenheit or higher);

Y or N Respiratory symptoms such as runny nose, nasal congestion, sore throat, cough or shortness of breath;

Y or N Whole body symptoms such as muscle aches, chills and severe fatigue;

Y or N New gastrointestinal symptoms such as nausea, vomiting or diarrhea;

Y or N Changes in sense of taste or smell.

2. Please respond to the following questions to identify potential COVID-19 exposure:

Y or N Have you been in close contact with someone who is suspected or confirmed to have COVID-19 in the past 14 days? (Note: healthcare workers caring for COVID-19 patients while wearing appropriate PPE should answer 'No' to this question.).

Y or N Have you traveled in the past 14 days: internationally (outside the U.S., including Canada); by cruise ship; or domestically (within the U.S.) outside of NH, VT, or ME on public transportation (e.g., bus, train, plane, etc.).

Y or N Have you had COVID-19? If you have, please ensure at least 3 days (72 hours) have passed since your fever has subsided without the use of fever-reducing medicines and improvement in respiratory symptoms (e.g., cough shortness of breath,); and at least 10 days have passed since symptoms first appeared.

\_\_\_\_\_  
(initials)

Additional Declarations:

1. I agree to comply and adhere to the requests made by the NHVH Screener/Monitor at the time of and during visit to protect and safeguard all parties involved with the scheduled visit. If I do not comply with requests, my visit and further visits may cease.

\_\_\_\_\_  
(initials)



New Hampshire Veterans Home  
Limited Visitation Declaration Form

N-G 157

2. I will notify Screener/Monitor if I become ill anytime during the visit. \_\_\_\_\_  
(initials)
3. I agree to notify NHVH if I develop any signs and symptoms of COVID-19 as outlined above in my screening within 2 days after visiting (Notify: Angela Hawthorne, Infection Control Nurse at 603-527-4864 or [angela.hawthorne@nhvh.nh.gov](mailto:angela.hawthorne@nhvh.nh.gov)). \_\_\_\_\_  
(initials)
4. I have received the COVID-19 vaccine.  
\_\_\_ No  
\_\_\_ Yes; my first dose was on (date): \_\_\_\_\_  
my second dose was on (date): \_\_\_\_\_  
(initials)

*Note: The NH Department of Health and Human Services is working on proposed new guidance to include the latest science surrounding the pandemic as it relates to vaccine and in-person visits. As of this time, visiting policies have not changed.*

Signature & Submission

Resident Visiting: \_\_\_\_\_  
Please Print

Visitor Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
Please Print

Visitor Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Visitor Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Phone Number: \_\_\_\_\_

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Submit this form to the Recreation Program Assistant:

- By email at: [visits@nhvh.nh.gov](mailto:visits@nhvh.nh.gov)
- By mail or in person at: 139 Winter Street, Tilton NH 03276

Additional forms can be printed from the NHVH website at [www.nh.gov/veterans](http://www.nh.gov/veterans). A date and time will be scheduled after submitting the completed form. Should you have any questions, please call (603) 527-4816.