



New Hampshire Veterans Home
 139 Winter Street
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Kimberly M. MacKay
 Commandant

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Dear Residents and Families –

We are very happy to share that the residents who were diagnosed with COVID are doing well. They have recovered and returned to their neighborhoods. **We are able to welcome visitors back into our facility using our existing protocol (see below).** Additionally, there were no new cases of COVID amongst our residents last week and to date this week. After our weekly testing today, if there are no new cases, the last day of our outbreak status, per the NH Public Health, will be Thursday, March 3rd. **Pending these results, our plan is to resume social excursions and welcome volunteers and entertainers on Friday, March 4th.**

To minimize health risks during visits, this is the opportune time to reiterate safeguards that will once again be in place. Similar to prior practices, visits are scheduled after completing and submitting the ‘Limited Visitation Declaration’ that was mailed previously and is also posted on our website (www.nh.gov/veterans). Assuming no infectious disease symptoms or risk factors incurred, an appointment for a visit can be made. We can accommodate up to three visitors at a time. All visitors and residents need to wear masks throughout their visit. Since everyone will be masked, food is not able to be consumed during visits. When both the resident and their visitor(s) are fully vaccinated, visits may occur at your leisure by scheduling a visit, at least a day in advance. Visits for visitors and/or residents who are not vaccinated are scheduled three days in advance. When scheduling a visit with your loved one, contact our Recreation Secretary, Midge, at visits@nhvh.nh.gov or by calling her at (603) 527-4816.

As many of you are aware, New Hampshire, like the nation, is experiencing staff shortages. Employers are struggling to recruit qualified health care providers as well as retain the competent staff. In an effort to combat this, Past Commandant LaBrecque and Human Resource Director, Barbara McCann, requested the continuation of the 15% enhancement for our nurses. We are delighted this request was approved by our Governor and Council. An additional request was made to provide our Licensed Nursing Assistants (LNAs) this same enhancement, which was also approved. We continue to do everything possible to keep our wonderful staff and to recruit other LNAs in the community to join the NH Veterans Home family. We are rolling out our in-house LNA training program to provide those who have wanted to enter the field of nursing an opportunity to do so. This is offered at no cost along with a year’s commitment to the NHVH.

As we continue with our Medical Director Services with Theoria Medical, we have transitioned to a new Medical Director. Dr. Randolph Lowry has been practicing internal medicine for over 30 years and has extensive experience with the geriatric population. We welcome him and look forward to the expertise he brings.

Lastly, as I close in on the end of my first month, I am honored and proud to be a part of the NHVH community. The dedication of the staff to our Veterans and their families is commendable. I want to extend my greatest appreciation to our Veterans for their service.

Sincerely,

Kimberly M. MacKay
 Commandant