



New Hampshire Veterans Home
139 Winter Street
Tilton, NH 03276



Kimberly M. MacKay
Commandant

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Dear Residents and Families,

As you may already know, the updated COVID-19 bivalent booster vaccines have been authorized and recommended by the FDA and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). Bivalent refers to the inclusion of new strains of COVID-19 in the vaccine, different than monovalent referring to the original strain of COVID-19.

Although bivalent boosters cannot be used as a primary series vaccination, these booster vaccines cover the original COVID-19 virus in addition to the newer strains. While the CDC recommends a two-month wait from the primary series of vaccinations or after the last monovalent booster to receive the new, bivalent vaccine, the New Hampshire Department of Public Health Services (NH DHHS) recommends waiting at least three months after prior vaccination or a SARS-CoV-2 infection before receiving a bivalent vaccine booster. We have opted to proceed with the NH DHHS recommendation to maximize immune protection and minimize side effects.

Bivalent boosters have shown superior immune response against the Omicron variants with higher ability to protect against future variants. No new safety concerns or serious side effects have been identified with bivalent vaccines. Therefore, our Infection Prevention and Control (IPC) program is developing a schedule of COVID vaccination clinics in the next few weeks for residents and staff. If you have questions about your family member receiving the bivalent vaccine, please call the IPC program at 603-527-4800 by September 23, 2022. Unless notified otherwise by this date, NHVH will proceed in providing your loved one with this increased protection by administering the bivalent booster.

As we work toward implementing the latest advance in science, we know visits and social excursions are not without risks during a pandemic. Unfortunately, we currently have three residents with COVID-19. The residents are stable and temporarily residing in our Charles Tilton neighborhood. Our Alan Shepard neighborhood is currently quarantined and, therefore, not able to accept visitors. While taking these precautions, you are welcome to schedule a video visit or a window visit with our LEDU Recreation Therapists: Jennifer Mitchell at 603-527-4815 or Jennifer.S.Mitchell@nhvh.nh.gov, or Megan Rowe at 603-527-4835 or Megan.E.Rowe@nhvh.nh.gov.

Our John Stark and Franklin Pierce neighborhoods in LEDU as well as all residents of Tarr North, Tarr South and Welch neighborhoods stay the course with normal activity, including visits. While we are hopeful for no additional positive cases, contact tracing and subsequent testing continues for veterans who may have been exposed.

We continue to take precautions to facilitate a safe environment for our veterans, employees, families, volunteers, and friends. We remain aware and vigilant, pivoting as contributing factors change.

Sincerely,

Kimberly M. MacKay
Commandant