



Kimberly M. MacKay
Commandant

New Hampshire Veterans Home
139 Winter Street
Tilton, NH 03276



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

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Dear Veterans & Veterans' Primary Healthcare Contacts,

I hope this letter finds you healthy, especially as community transmissions of respiratory illnesses have drastically increased. Here at the New Hampshire Veterans Home, we have seen the impact of the increase in viruses as one resident tested positive for Covid-19 last week and two residents, both on the Alan Shepard neighborhood, have been diagnosed with the flu this week. The residents have mild symptoms and are doing well.

One of the most effective ways to mitigate the spread of respiratory illnesses is with the use of masks. Therefore, starting today, employees, volunteers and visitors will begin wearing masks. Once visitors are in the room of the veterans they are visiting, their masks may be removed. We continue to ask that if you have any symptoms of illness that you refrain from visiting until you are well and symptom-free.

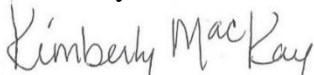
Our goal is to return to non-masking as quickly and safely as possible. We look forward to sending you that good news as soon as we are able.

While we are hopeful for no additional positive cases of any respiratory illness, contact tracing and subsequent testing continues for veterans who may have been exposed. As a matter of daily practice, we continue to employ infection prevention and control best practices, including good hand hygiene and the disinfection of commonly-used equipment and items.

We are thankful that vaccines have dramatically lessened the severity of disease for those who contract it. Unfortunately, the vaccine is not able to prevent infection. Because the respiratory viruses cause us to constantly pivot, you are welcome to call us at 603-527-4400 for the latest information.

As we work our way through the New England winter months, there are only 53 more days until Spring!

Sincerely,


Kimberly M. MacKay
Commandant