



February 19, 2021

Dear Union Grove Members, Friends, and Family:

I hope this letter finds you healthy and warm.

One million people in Wisconsin have received a COVID-19 vaccine and more than 250,000 have received both doses of the vaccine. As those receiving vaccinations continues to grow, coronavirus cases and deaths continue to fall. We would like to encourage you to check with your health care provider to learn how you can be vaccinated in your community.

Since my update on February 5th, we have had one employee test positive for COVID-19. There are no new positive cases among members. This is the only active positive case of COVID-19 on campus. In addition, we recently received notification that a COVID-recovered member's death was classified by the medical examiner as COVID-related. This is one of a limited number of instances where the death of a member who was recovered for several weeks or even months is later classified as a COVID death. We accept the determination of the medical examiner and local health department and do not speculate how an individual's co-morbidities contributed to their passing.

That said, we are confident in our determination that the member was recovered. We follow CDC guidelines in our recovery determinations which are based on length of time since testing positive (a minimum of 14 days) and symptoms (must be symptom free to leave quarantine). The determination also follows an examination of other conditions caused or amplified by COVID-19. These decisions are made in tandem by our infection control preventionist and Medical Director. Please understand that getting this decision correct is of utmost importance to us as preventing the spread of the virus in our facilities is a top priority and we are confident in this process. Thank you for understanding. We take pride in the work our staff is doing, and we want families to be assured that we are not trying to hide anything.

Again, if you are eligible, I urge you to get vaccinated against COVID-19 if you have not already. There are two safe vaccines available and every person who gets vaccinated helps us to bring an end this pandemic. This is how we can help protect the vulnerable population that we serve at our Wisconsin Veterans Homes. The Wisconsin Department of Health Services has information and resources for you to review about the vaccine. Visit: <https://www.dhs.wisconsin.gov/covid-19/vaccine.htm>.

Finally, let us all continue to take precautions against the virus by staying home as much as possible, wearing a mask when out, remaining six feet away from others, and frequently washing our hands.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Erin Johnston'.

Erin Johnston
Commandant