



Veterans Home - Chippewa Falls

Family Updates 3.17.2021

Dear Family and Friends,

COVID-19 Updates

At the Veterans Home, we have had no new confirmed COVID-19 cases among members or staff in over six weeks.

Here is our current and cumulative information:

Current Active COVID-19 Confirmed Positive:	0
Current Active COVID-19 Suspected Positive:	0
Cumulative COVID-19 Confirmed Positive:	63 (twenty-four members, thirty-six employees, three contracted individuals)
Cumulative COVID-19 Suspected Positive:	2 (one member, one employee)
Total Recovered:	61 (twenty-one members, thirty-seven employees, three contracted individuals)

Safe Visitation

Over the last several weeks, we have happily witnessed the dramatic decline of COVID-19 cases in senior living and care communities across the nation. Despite this promising development, our team at the Veterans Home remains fully committed to protecting the health and well-being of our members.

With that being said, we are excited to share with you that in response to the success of the COVID-19 vaccines, the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) updated their guidance regarding safe visitation procedures.

Effective immediately, we are overjoyed to support indoor visitation for all members with exception in the following instances:

- **Members in quarantine due to suspected or confirmed COVID-19** may not participate in indoor visits, despite vaccination status, until they meet the criteria to be released from quarantine.
- **Unvaccinated members** may not participate in indoor visits if Chippewa County's positivity rate is greater than 10% and less than 70% of our members are fully vaccinated.

As we move forward towards safely reopening, please know we will continue prioritizing the physical, mental, and psychosocial well-being and quality of life of our members and team members. Therefore, the Veterans Home will continue practicing key components of our COVID-19 Infection Prevention and Response Action Plan, including:

- Encouraging all members and staff to receive the COVID-19 vaccine;
- Utilizing appropriate personal protective equipment, including a well-fitting face covering or mask that covers the mouth and nose;
- Screening and monitoring of members, staff, and visitors for symptoms;
- Using alcohol-based hand rub regularly;
- Testing members and staff based on federal and state guidance;
- Quarantining COVID-19 positive members with dedicated staff to provide care;
- Taking environmental safety precautions, such as disinfecting high-touch surfaces
- Adhering to safe visitation procedures, including maintaining six feet of distance between persons; and
- Assuring safe congregate dining and group activities.

In the event the Veterans Home confirms a positive case of COVID-19 among members or team members, we will temporarily suspend indoor visits while we conduct facility-wide testing to determine the safest next steps.

This revised guidance is a refreshing, much needed step towards safely opening our organization to normal visitation and operations. Everyone is eager to welcome back our friends and families for indoor visits. Please know our team is pleased to accommodate your visits in a way that is appropriate for our physical setting, meets members' needs, and maintains the comfort and safety of all.

To schedule a visit, please go online to <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10C0C4DAAAB23A0FFC34-veterans> and sign up for your arrival timeslot today! If you need help signing up, please call the receptionist at 715-720-6775.

In-Room Visitation Guidelines - Reminders:

- In-room visits can occur any day of the week at any time
- Visits have no time limits
- Each member can have up to 2 guests at a time
 - Please coordinate visits with your family and friends so no more than 2 guests are here per member at a time
- For right now, we have visits available through the end of March. We will have more sign ups per month, so stay tuned for more information
- If you would prefer to have a COVID test prior to your visit, you may get tested on your own or we can do a test for you here
- Well-fitting face masks must be worn by guests and members at all times during the visit
- We will provide guests with a procedural face mask to wear while at the Veterans Home
- We encourage you to maintain your 6 feet of social distance
 - However, if two weeks has passed since the member received his/her 2nd COVID vaccine, you may even hold their hand or give them a hug
 - If touching occurs, you both must perform hand hygiene before and after touching for safety
 - You must still keep 6 feet of distance between you and other members, staff or guests while at the Veterans Home
- You do not need to conduct pre-screening questionnaires before your visit
- Upon arrival, guests need to use our Kiosk to take temperatures and ask necessary screening questions before visiting

- Please sign out at the kiosk before leaving

If you have any other questions or concerns, please contact Katie Plendl at 715-720-6775 or Veterans.Home-CF@dva.wi.gov.

Best,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Megan M. Corcoran".

Megan M. Corcoran, NHA | Administrator
Wisconsin Veterans Home at Chippewa Falls