



## Veterans Home - Chippewa Falls

9.15.2021 Veterans Home Weekly Family Updates

Dear Family and Friends –

As COVID-19's Delta variant continues to spread rapidly throughout the nation, the federal government announced on September 9 that new, COVID-19-specific safety mandates will begin in the coming weeks for federal workers, large employers, and health care professionals serving in all settings that receive Medicare or Medicaid— now including hospitals, dialysis facilities, ambulatory surgical settings, home health agencies, as well as skilled nursing communities, like the Veterans Home.

I sincerely welcome this revision to the federal COVID-19 action plan. By including these other health settings in the mandate, we're bringing a much-needed consistency to the quality of care provided to older adults and their families— no matter where that care is provided. And, that's something you deserve.

We're also here to support members in obtaining their vaccine if they haven't done so already. Please reach out to Katie Plendl or Katie Schemenauer to help schedule these appointments for your loved ones.

The Veterans Home continues prioritizing our comprehensive COVID-19 Infection Prevention and Response Plan that ensures we are following all guidance from federal, state and local health officials. This plan includes:

- Requiring team members be vaccinated against COVID-19 while encouraging members and families to get 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 members, team members, and visitors for symptoms;
- Using alcohol-based hand rub regularly;
- Testing members and team members based on federal and state guidance;
- Quarantining COVID-19 positive members with dedicated team members to provide care;
- Taking environmental safety precautions, such as disinfecting high-touch surfaces and designated visitation areas after each visit;
- Adhering to safe visitation procedures, including maintaining six feet of distance between persons; and
- Assuring safe congregate dining and group activities.

Please see our website to review our entire COVID-19 Infection Prevention and Response Plan.

In addition, I am writing today with an update regarding the Veterans Home's COVID-19 status:

We have not identified any new COVID-19 positive members or team members since our last update.

This means we have two active team member cases and no active member case at this time.

We will continue with frequent outbreak testing for all members and staff as directed by CMS and public health.

**Current & Cumulative COVID-19 Cases:**

Current <b>Active</b> COVID-19 Confirmed Positive:	<b>2 (two employees)</b>
Current <b>Active</b> COVID-19 Suspected Positive:	<b>0</b>
Cumulative COVID-19 Confirmed Positive (since the Pandemic began in March 2020):	72 (twenty-five members, forty-four employees, three contracted individuals)
Cumulative COVID-19 Suspected Positive (since the Pandemic began in March 2020):	2 (one member, one employee)
Total Recovered (since the Pandemic began in March 2020):	68 (twenty-two members, forty-three employees, three contracted individuals)

As you know, the CDC recommends all individuals residing in areas where COVID-19 has a “high” or “substantial” level of community transmission wear masks in indoor and outdoor public spaces regardless of vaccination status. For county-specific community transmission rates, please see the CDC’s website.

As of today, Chippewa County has a HIGH community transmission rate. Therefore, masks ARE REQUIRED when on-site at the Veterans Home.

Households A, B, and C are now open for guest indoor visits. Household D indoor visits remain temporarily suspended. We encourage you to stay connected with your loved ones in Household D as much as possible through closed window visits, virtual visits, telephone calls, and through letters/cards. Please connect with our life enrichment team to schedule any virtual visits. Closed Window Visits can continue to occur. No appointment is needed. Please bring your phone or tablet so you can call your loved one during the visit to best hear each other.

For those who haven’t yet been vaccinated, please consider doing so. Help us protect the lives of those vulnerable to COVID-19 and stop this pandemic. Find a COVID-19 vaccine near you.

If you have questions or concerns, please contact us at 715-720-6775 or Veterans.Home-CF@dva.wi.gov. I greatly appreciate your time and collaboration.

Sincerely,



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