



1.17.2022 Veterans Home Weekly Family Updates

Dear Family & Friends -

COVID -19 Update:

Here are the changes at the Veterans Home since our last update:

- Five team members are suspected to have COVID-19.
- Three previously positive team members are now recovered.

Current & Cumulative COVID-19 Cases:

Current Active COVID-19 Confirmed Positive:	4 (three employees, one member)
Current Active COVID-19 Suspected Positive:	5 (five employees)
Cumulative COVID-19 Confirmed Positive (since the Pandemic began in March 2020):	97 (twenty-six members, sixty-eight employees, three contracted individuals)
Cumulative COVID-19 Suspected Positive (since the Pandemic began in March 2020):	7 (one member, six employees)
Total Recovered (since the Pandemic began in March 2020):	91 (twenty-two members, sixty-six employees, three contracted individuals)

Masks:

KN95 masks are now at the reception desk for visitors to wear at the Veterans Home. Team members will also be wearing KN95s or N95s. Additionally, KN95 masks are also available for members to wear.

Testing:

Frequent testing will continue for members and team members to quickly identify any further cases. Again, if visitors would like a rapid test prior to visiting (to check for asymptomatic positives), please ask the receptionist. If visitors are sick, call your doctor’s office or visit a public testing site to check for COVID-19 – do not come to the Veterans Home.

Reminders:

The COVID cases in Wisconsin continue to rise, so we urge everyone to take extra precautions to keep yourself and your loved ones safe. All of Wisconsin continues to be in high community transmission.

We are working with local and state public health officials while following all guidance from the CDC and CMS to ensure we are doing everything possible to keep the members and team members safe.

While we permit visitors, we ask that anyone who feels ill, has any symptom of COVID-19, or has recently been in contact with someone who has or is suspected to have COVID to postpone their visit. While you are visiting with your loved ones, please wear a KN95 face mask, screen in at the kiosk, practice physical distancing, and limit your movement throughout our care community as much as

possible. You may also ask to receive a rapid COVID test prior to your visit, or test in the community prior to your visit. Additionally, please know the risks associated with visiting during a COVID-19 outbreak.

Safety During Outings/Appointments:

Because the cases in Chippewa County and Wisconsin continue to surge, we ask that if you choose to take your loved one out into the community, the member and anyone they are with need to wear masks at all times. Also, socially distance as able (for example the member could sit in the back seat in the car).

COVID-19 Plan:

Our comprehensive COVID-19 Infection Prevention and Response Plan is in place to help our team prioritize the health and safety of everyone who lives in and works at the Veterans Home. 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;
- Tracing individuals who come in contact with anyone affected;
- Testing members and team members based on federal and state guidance;
- Quarantining COVID-19 positive members and implementing enhanced infection control measures;
- Advising COVID-19 positive team members to take all appropriate measures;
- Taking environmental safety precautions, such as disinfecting high-touch surfaces and designated visitation areas after each visit;
- Assuring safe congregate dining and group activities with social distancing; and
- Adhering to safe visitation procedures, including maintaining six feet of distance between persons.

Please see our website for our full COVID-19 Infection Prevention and Response Action Plan. We will continue to update you with any changes.

COVID Boosters

Finally, I cannot encourage you enough to get vaccinated against COVID-19, get your COVID-19 booster shot, and obtain your flu shot if you haven't already. The CDC and Wisconsin Department of Health are recommending COVID booster shots for everyone over the age of 12. Click here <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/vaccines/booster-shot.html> to find a booster near you, or contact Katie Plendl for assistance with scheduling your or your loved one's booster.

Best,



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Wisconsin Veterans Home at Chippewa Falls