



October 14, 2020

Dear King Members, Friends, and Family:

It is with a heavy heart that I must write you today to share news about how COVID-19 is affecting our campus.

While we are working very hard to keep COVID-19 out of our Homes (see practices and protocols below), it is a very tough battle, given the growing number of people with the virus who live and work right outside our doors. At King, 307 of our about 700 staff who work at our Home live in the City of Waupaca. Waupaca County has VERY HIGH activity levels for COVID-19. In addition, hundreds live in the surrounding counties – Winnebago, Outagamie, Waushara, and Portage – all with VERY HIGH activity levels for COVID-19. Again, I cannot stress enough the importance of following the guidance of health officials to continue to stay home as much as possible, wear a mask when out and maintain at least six feet from others, and wash our hands frequently. We all need to stay healthy to stop the spread of this virus.

In total, since our last report on Friday, we have had 60 members and 17 staff test positive for coronavirus. Also, since that report we've had 15 members and 37 staff recover. Today, we have 51 members in quarantine in Stordock Hall. Unfortunately, we had a death related to the virus. This means we have had four deaths over the past three weeks that may be attributed to COVID-19.

It is truly our honor to care for each person here on campus and we are deeply affected by these illnesses and deaths. While this is a large campus with over 440 members, this is a close-knit community, and we cannot but help feel each loss.

Finally, last Friday, the first digital COVID-19 update went out. If you would like to receive this communication digitally, I encourage you to visit [www.WisVetsEmail.com](http://www.WisVetsEmail.com) and provide us with your name, email address, and/or cell phone number. Initially, this will not replace paper communications, but we want to be able to provide these updates to you as quickly as possible. We will eventually be transitioning away from paper communications.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "T. Servatius".

Tammy Servatius, Commandant

## **Wisconsin Veterans Home at King COVID-19 Practices**

As a reminder, the following steps are taken on campus when we have cases of COVID-19:

- Members with COVID-19 are moved to a quarantine area.
- A very limited number of staff work with the infected members. These staff have been trained in infectious disease control and wear the appropriate personal protective equipment (PPE) including N95 masks and face shields.
- Staff follow the guidance of the Centers for Disease Control and the Department of Health Services regarding contact tracing, additional testing, and quarantining others as necessary.
- Staff diagnosed with COVID-19 must complete quarantine or test negative twice following their positive diagnosis.

As always, we are:

- Taking extra environmental safety precautions, such as cleaning and disinfecting high-touch surfaces;
- Screening and monitoring members, staff, and compassionate visitors for COVID-19 symptoms; and
- Prohibiting non-essential visits.