



## Wisconsin Department of Veterans Affairs

Tony Evers, Governor | Mary M. Kolar, Secretary

Dear Members, Families, and Friends:

We would like to give you a short update on what is happening at Wisconsin Veterans Home at Chippewa Falls. The COVID-19 pandemic has been a part of our lives now for more than two months. It's a challenge, but so far, we have been meeting that challenge head on.

First, we continue to report in each of these updates that we continue to have **zero** cases of COVID-19 at our Veterans Home. We attribute this to the practices we had in place and the protocols we added very early on of which we still adhere to today. Limiting who enters our facility, temperature screening those who do, and strongly enforcing our infection control procedures are the best tools we have to keep the virus at bay.

We are so thankful for the staff who help keep our facilities clean, thereby keeping the risk of infection low at our Homes. As recommended by the Centers for Disease Control, our environmental services staff are giving high touch points extra daily attention. All handrails, door knobs, restrooms and the main entrance are being cleaned multiple times per day. Standard cleaning practices to reduce cross contamination and eliminate the spread of germs are continuing. We continue to emphasize the need for hand washing, as all staff and members are regularly urged (and assisted if needed) to wash their hands frequently.

While we must remain vigilant to keep your loved ones healthy, we understand that you've been separated from them physically for much longer than any of us would like. We acknowledge that this is an uncertain and stressful time for you and the members. The fear and anxiety about COVID-19 can understandably be overwhelming and can cause strong emotions in adults. It is common to have fear and worry about your own health, and that of your loved ones. This can result in changes in sleep or eating patterns, difficulty concentrating, and the worsening of chronic or mental health problems or conditions. We care deeply about our members and are here to support them on a daily basis.

Finally, we cannot emphasize enough that we continue to be grateful to everyone who abides by the Safer at Home Order. By following this order, we collectively are keeping our staff healthy so that they do not bring this virus into our Home.

Please keep the calls, letters, emails and video chats coming. It truly brightens the day of everyone here. And, as always, we look forward to the day when we can see you in person again.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Mark Wilson".

Mark Wilson  
Commandant

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Megan Corcoran".

Megan Corcoran  
Executive Director