



STATE OF ILLINOIS
DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS' AFFAIRS

ILLINOIS VETERANS' HOME AT MANTENO
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TANYA SMITH, MSN, RN, LNHA
ADMINISTRATOR

LINDA CHAPA LAVIA
DIRECTOR

May 12, 2020

To residents, family members or responsible parties, and staff of the Illinois Veterans Home at Manteno:

We are committed to communicating with you in a timely, responsible, and transparent manner about COVID-19 (coronavirus). Today we want to inform you that one of our residents who tested positive for COVID-19 has passed away. This is a solemn moment for our community. All of IDVA grieves for their loss. The resident had been on hospice since 2019 due to reasons other than COVID-19. IDVA cannot share any more information about them due to privacy concerns.

I want to reiterate that we are working hard to keep everyone safe. The health and wellbeing of our veteran heroes and the devoted staff who care for them is, and always will be, our top priority. We are working with state and local health officials to follow the latest medical guidance. Since the recent positive cases were identified at the home, we have ensured that residents who tested negative were separated from those who tested positive.

We are continuing our health screenings of staff and residents, maintaining social distancing practices, wearing face masks, using gloves and gowns when indicated, and intensifying our cleaning and disinfection protocols. All residents are encouraged to stay in their rooms. We are grateful to our team for remaining highly vigilant for signs or symptoms of COVID-19 and for responding swiftly, appropriately, and professionally to any potential cases.

We understand this news can be distressing, and we encourage you to contact your loved ones for mutual support of one another. Our activities and social services staff continue to develop leisure activities, in accordance with safe social distancing practices, to care for the psychosocial wellbeing of our veterans. We promise to keep you informed as we move forward. This virus is tough, but we are tougher. Our military veterans and our wonderful home staff are strong and resilient people. With your continued support, we will get through this together.

Sincerely,
Tanya Smith, MSN, RN, LNHA
Administrator