



STATE OF ILLINOIS  
**DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS' AFFAIRS**

ILLINOIS VETERANS' HOME AT MANTENO  
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GOVERNOR

TANYA SMITH, MSN, RN, LNHA  
ADMINISTRATOR

LINDA CHAPA LAVIA  
DIRECTOR

July 1, 2020

To residents, families 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 employees has reported that they tested positive for COVID-19. The employee is on leave to recover and we are responding according to the latest medical guidance in coordination with state and local health officials. We will perform another round of facility-wide testing and work with health officials on possible quarantines to ensure the full care, testing and protection of anyone potentially exposed.

As always, our top priority is the health and safety of our veteran heroes and the devoted staff who care for them. We are following recommendations from state and local health officials to safeguard everyone at the facility. This includes continuing our health screenings of staff and residents, maintaining social distancing practices, wearing face coverings, using gloves and gowns when indicated, and intensified cleaning and disinfection protocols. Residents continue to be encouraged to stay in their rooms to minimize movement within the facility. We are grateful to our team for remaining highly vigilant for signs or symptoms of COVID-19 and responding swiftly, appropriately, and professionally to any potential cases.

We understand this news can be distressing, which is why 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 do everything possible to keep our residents safe. 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