



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

ILLINOIS VETERANS' HOME AT MANTENO  
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November 18, 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 we are responding to news five (5) additional employees have tested positive for COVID-19. Since August 21, a total of fifteen (15) residents and twenty-eight (28) employees have tested positive, and two (2) residents have passed away. We are following the latest medical guidance and will work with state and local health officials regarding any possible quarantines and 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. Throughout this pandemic we have been 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 for 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.

Thank you,

*Tanya Smith MSN, RN, LNHA*

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