



THE NVH OBSERVER

N O R F O L K V E T E R A N S H O M E

NEBRASKA DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS' AFFAIRS

From The Desk of Jerry Eisenhower, NVH Administrator

**GOVERNOR:
PETE RICKETTS**

**NEBRASKA
DEPT. OF VETERANS'
AFFAIRS DIRECTOR:
JOHN HILGERT**

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STATE OF NEBRASKA VISION:
GROW NEBRASKA

STATE OF NEBRASKA — MISSION:
CREATE OPPORTUNITY THROUGH MORE
EFFECTIVE, MORE
EFFICIENT,
AND CUSTOMER FOCUSED
STATE GOVERNMENT

Greetings,

Because so much of our teammate, member and family activity revolves around member visitation and the facility's attempts to cautiously and safely open the facility, I am going to devote the majority of my article to spelling out these efforts.

As of today's date, we continue to have no Covid positive members or Teammates! We have 37 members who have recovered from Covid and 51 recovered teammates. We have a few Gray Rooms, mainly due to new admissions being in observation for fourteen days.

The positivity rate for Madison County remains where we can continue to hold **Limited In-Person Family Visitation!**

The facility is the gatekeeper regarding all aspects of visits. I want to make sure all potential visitors to our facility understand that we have 140 plus members and the majority of them have family that have been waiting a very long time to see their loved one face to face. Our goal is for **ALL** families that wish to see their loved one have the opportunity to do so. In order to accomplish this goal, it is not possible to honor "standing appointments" for families or families signing up for multiple in-person visits in the same week.

Families are encouraged to sign up online for a visit at: www.signupgenius.com/go/nvh If you do not have internet access you are asked to call NVH at (402) 370-3330 and ask to speak with Elaine Wessendorf or Colleen Benson, who will assist you in signing up for a visit. It would be helpful when signing up for a visit for families to indicate in the comment section if they are bringing a minor or more than 2 people so staff know where to take their loved one, i.e., window visit in these examples.

Bullet points of the facilities initial "ground rules" for in-person family visitation are:

- ◆ All visitors must be screened-in at the front desk of NVH prior to visiting and pass our health questionnaire. A surgical mask will be available for your use during your visit.
- ◆ COVID rapid testing will be offered to visitors prior to visiting with Members (If the visitor refuses COVID testing, Personal Protective Equipment including the use of a KN95 mask will be provided and required). If possible, family members should arrive 15 minutes prior to their scheduled visit time to allow for Covid testing and maximize visitation time.
- ◆ Visits must be scheduled. We are using the sign up genius program that is already utilized for window visits. The link is listed above. This program will now be used to schedule in-person visits as well as window visits.
- ◆ Initially, visits will take place between 9 am and 4 pm Monday through Friday and Saturday morning from 9 am to 10:30 am. No more than 2 Visitors per Member at a time.
- ◆ Total number of visitors in the facility at one time will be limited to ensure the success of the visit and not overwhelm NVH staff. (No more than two families comprising four visitors in the designated visiting area at one time).
- ◆ Visits will be limited to 30 minutes. (Visits may be extended as schedule permits).
- ◆ Visitors must go directly to the designated visitation area and remain in that area for the entire visit.
- ◆ Visitation area will be set up to provide social distancing. Mask usage and social distancing is expected to take place during the entire visit. You are allowed to hug your loved one as long as both parties' masks remain in place.
- ◆ Drinks and food are not to be consumed during these visits.

Continued on page 2.

HOME HAPPENINGS

We will continue with our **Member Support Companion Program**. This program is designed for members that our interdisciplinary team determines, due to a change of condition, would benefit from the program. In most cases, a spouse would be the individual being approved to provide companionship. After being approved, an application is filled out and the individual is trained and then scheduled to come in to the facility. The visits will require that the companion be tested for Covid and follow all the program requirements. This program does not involve providing direct care to their loved one. For additional information on this program please contact Deb Becker, Activity Supervisor at 402-370-3110.

Compassionate Care Visits differ from the Member Support Companion Program. Compassionate Care Visits are approved only if a member is determined to be actively dying or suffering from severe depression, weight loss or other factors that are a result of family visits being restricted. **Our interdisciplinary care team would make this determination, not the family.** If approved, only two family members at a time are allowed in the facility after successfully passing a Covid test. They must wear a surgical mask at all times if the member resides in a "green room". Full PPE would be required to be worn if going into a yellow, grey or red room. All visits must take place in the member's room.

The state veterans' homes are expanding recreational activities to include events with adult beverages for members who wish to partake and are safely able to per doctor's orders. If you have any questions or comments about this new policy, please do not hesitate to reach out to us at (402)370-3330.

Thank you for your continued patience as we work towards re-opening Norfolk Veterans Home.

Sincerely,



Jerry Eisenhauer
Administrator



Photographed above: George "Bill" H. and his wife Gail received the first scheduled visit with their son Daryl. NVH has been under restricted health measures since March 2020, due to the COVID pandemic.

IN REMEMBRANCE

*In Remembrance of Those
Members Who Have Passed.*

No person was ever honored for what they received. Honor has been the reward for what they gave. ~Calvin Coolidge

Robert Brotzel
U.S. Navy Veteran

Magdalene Eschliman
Spouse of a U.S. Navy
Veteran

Ronald Aschoff
U.S. Navy Veteran

Marjorie Scholl
Spouse of a U.S. Army Veteran

Terry Cruise
U.S. Navy Veteran

Lawrence Borer
U.S. Army Veteran

Donald Siedschlag
U.S. Army Veteran



SALUTE OUR NEW MEMBERS

NORFOLK VETERANS HOME WELCOMES YOU

Walter S.

U.S. Navy Veteran

Russell E.

U.S. Air Force Veteran

Marvin B.

U.S. Army Veteran

William V.

U.S. Navy Veteran

Norman H.

U.S. Army Veteran

MEMBERS, FAMILY AND FRIENDS

Want to find out what's happening at the Norfolk Veterans' Home?

Go to the State Veterans' homes website at <https://veterans.nebraska.gov/homes>
Here you will have access to the activity calendar and a multitude of other information regarding the State Veterans' Homes.

NEW TEAMMATES



Brian Sparks
Facility Maint. Specialist



Nikki Wragge
Building Services Manager

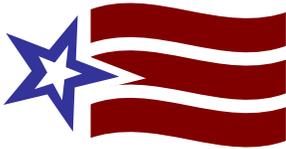


Amanda Thackston
Staff Care Tech II



NEBRASKA DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS' AFFAIRS

EOE/AA/ADA
Norfolk Veterans Home
600 E. Benjamin Ave.
Norfolk, NE 68701
Phone: (402) 370-3330



Norfolk Veterans Home

Bits & Pieces

CENSUS
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Due to COVID-19 we are not taking any room or meal reservations at this time. Sorry for any inconvenience.

Norfolk Veterans' Home Observer is published monthly for the members, families, staff and other interested parties.

THE NORFOLK VETERANS HOME IS A STATE-OPERATED FACILITY PROVIDING LONG TERM CARE FOR ELIGIBLE NEBRASKA VETERANS.

FOR MORE INFORMATION REGARDING ADMISSION, PLEASE CONTACT YOUR LOCAL COUNTY SERVICE OFFICER OR DODIE FINKHAUS @ (402)370-3109 COLLEEN BENSON @ (402) 370-3469



Volunteer opportunities are currently not being accepted.