



**ANDREW M. CUOMO**  
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**LISA J. PINO, M.A., J.D.**  
Executive Deputy Commissioner

**EDMUND J. COLETTI**  
Chief Executive Officer

December 24, 2020

**Notification to Family or Next of Kin**  
**Executive Order 202.18 and CMS Guidance OSO-20-29 NH**

Dear Resident / Representative / Family Member:

The Helen Hayes Hospital Transitional Care Unit (TCU) is committed to providing families with novel coronavirus (COVID-19) informational updates through letters posted on our website and personal updates via authorized person's preferred manner of communication (email, telephone or by such other means as may be selected by each authorized member or guardian regarding your loved ones' specific status). The TCU has been and will remain open in its reporting of COVID-19 information during this pandemic.

In response to Executive Order 202.18 issued by Governor Cuomo's office on April 19, 2020, and Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services' Guidance Q8O-20-29-NH issued on May 8, 2020, all nursing homes licensed by the Commissioner of Health shall notify all residents and family members and/or representatives of all residents if any resident tests positive for COVID-19 or if any resident suffers a COVID-19 related death within 24 hours of such positive test result or death. In addition, notification will be made if a cluster of three or more residents and/or staff with new onset respiratory symptoms occurs.

In accordance with Executive Order 202.18 and CMS Guidance QSO-20-29-NH, the TCU will post this information as needed on our website, [www.helenhayeshospital.org](http://www.helenhayeshospital.org). The letter will include the number of new resident COVID-19 positive tests, resident COVID-19 related expirations and any clusters of new on-set of respiratory symptoms for the last 24-hour period.

Further, the TCU is exploring additional avenues to communicate this information to you. We will update you as these platforms become available. The TCU will continue to be available to family members to respond to any questions you may have. Do not hesitate to contact your Social Worker for assistance.

Number of resident COVID-19 positive tests: 0 new; 6 total

*\*The facility is currently testing and retesting all residents.*

Number of resident COVID-19 related expirations: 0 new; 0 total

Number of staff COVID-19 positive tests: 1 new; 26 total

*\*The facility is currently testing and retesting all staff per Executive Order*

Cluster of new on-set of respiratory symptoms present: None

We will continue to fight this pandemic and provide you with the latest information. Many of you have called us and we are happy to respond, always providing the latest information. We continue to refrain from sending residents to non-medically necessary trips outside the hospital until further notice.

In closing, please know that we are thinking of you and your family and hope that you remain safe in your homes.

Sincerely,

*Jacqueline Brigandi*

Jacqueline Brigandi, MSN, CRRN, LNHA  
Nursing Home Administrator  
Helen Hayes Hospital