



State of New Jersey
DEPARTMENT OF MILITARY AND VETERANS AFFAIRS
NEW JERSEY VETERANS MEMORIAL HOME AT MENLO PARK
132 EVERGREEN ROAD
EDISON, NEW JERSEY 08818-3013

PHILIP D. MURPHY
Governor
Commander-in-Chief

SHEILA OLIVER
Lieutenant Governor

☆
LISA J. HOU, D.O.
Brigadier General
The Adjutant General

01 June 2023

Dear Staff Members,

The following is some background information and an update to the initial communication we sent out May 10th about the discolored drywall.

Menlo Park has a schedule of routine maintenance, sometimes referred to as "carbolization", for the deep cleaning and inspection of each occupied room in the home. To do this, in small groups of rooms at a time, we ask residents to relocate for 1-2 days in order to allow our facility staff the chance to move the furniture and furnishings to thoroughly inspect the residents' rooms and bathrooms.

When one resident room was found to have discolored drywall, May 4th, the home's maintenance staff and the NJ Department of Military and Veterans Affairs Environmental Management Branch began conducting multiple maintenance checks. All rooms now have undergone preliminary checks. We want to share our findings so far, and an overview of what comes next.

The preliminary survey found 11 rooms with discolored drywall, and 17 additional rooms with leaky toilet issues, which we attribute primarily to what seem to be failed wax rings on the toilets. We relocated all of the residents from these 28 rooms to mitigate any health concerns and to avoid further disrupting them with the work and testing ahead.

We are concerned about mold; an abatement consultant, Environmental Design, Inc. (EDI), conducted two site visits the week of May 15th and we are immediately moving forward with an abatement plan. Abatement will involve cutting and replacing portions of the drywall in impacted rooms. NJ DMAVA has developed the contractual work order for this scope of work and expects the work, in total, to take several months.

The consultant is generating a workplan to ensure the abatement contractor and all of the home's stakeholders are synchronized on a complex and deliberate plan to ensure the safety of residents, workplace, and staff.

We are treating the issues we see as mold, however the industry standard for mold testing is the sampling of both outside air and internal air and comparing the findings at the end of abatement. This sampling is planned to occur in each room as the abatement in small groups of rooms is complete. Air ducts will also be inspected.

Meanwhile, we are working with one contractor in a consultant capacity on potential causes and prevention. We have examined multiple plumbing systems. We have advised our teams to reduce the amount of water they use to mop. You may see plastic sheeting up. We have moved aggressively to address the situation to stop any issues as quickly as possible, and hope this aggressive action actually does the most to ease your concerns.

While we have not received any individual resident or employee personal health complaints, we ask you to please share your concerns with us. If you see something, please say something so that we can address it as quickly as possible.

We are planning to provide updates weekly, at minimum, and/or as we get new information. We will also include this as part of our town halls.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'LKranis', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Lisa Kranis, LNHA, MPA, CCP
Chief Executive Officer



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Dear Families and POAs,

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01 June 2023

Dear Resident,

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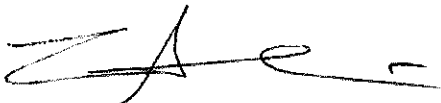
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