

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

09 June 2023

Dear Residents/Staff Members/Families/POAs,

The following is an update regarding the Canadian forest fires and the unprecedented smoke and particulate matter that has been impacting New Jersey and the northeastern states.

The air at the New Jersey Veterans Memorial Home at Menlo Park is triple and sometimes quadruple filtered. The air is first filtered through the intakes, then the air handlers, then through ventilation in the hallways and through filtration into all rooms.


The Menlo Park HVAC system uses the highest level Minimum Efficiency Reporting Value (MERV) rated air filters that the HVAC system can accommodate. MERV is a scale created by the Society of Heating, Refrigerating and Air-Conditioning Engineers. The higher the number on the 1-16 scale, the more effective the filter is in capturing particles. We use the highest allowable MERV rating for our system. Any higher would impede air flow throughout the system and generate a strain on the HVAC system.

Menlo Park's main air handlers are MERV 8 rated filters, which work with Pre HEPA (high-efficiency particulate air) and HEPA filters. The HEPA filters remove tiny allergens and harmful particles, while a pre-filter helps to filter larger particles. The air is then directed to the individual units where it is again filtered through MERV 11 filters. Menlo Park's system has had every filter changed in the last two months.

Our maintenance staff has conducted a physical inspection of all interior filter units as of June 8, 2023. There are currently no deficiencies and monitoring is consistent through our building management system. If a filter needs to be replaced, the sensors will indicate an immediate need to change out the filters and the system will set off an alarm.

We have enough new filters on hand for an immediate filter exchange throughout the entire facility. In other words, all resident rooms, all hallway units, all HEPA and pre-HEPA filters can be immediately exchanged if necessary.

We appreciate and request the insights of all our staff, residents, family members, those designated by power of attorney, and visitors, too. Please contact lisa.kranis@dmava.nj.gov to share additional concerns.

Sincerely,

Lisa Kranis, LNHA, MPA, CDP
Chief Executive Officer

"Serving Those Who Served"