



State of New Jersey
DEPARTMENT OF MILITARY AND VETERANS AFFAIRS
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PHILIP D. MURPHY
Governor
Commander-in-Chief

SHEILA OLIVER
Lieutenant Governor

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

June 30, 2023

Dear Residents, Staff Members, Families and Powers of Attorney,

The following is an update regarding mold abatement progress and prevention efforts at the New Jersey Veterans Memorial Home at Menlo Park. Inspections continue throughout the home and in each room slated for abatement.

Active Environmental Technologies, Inc. performed abatement and inspections of the impacted areas within the Liberty Wing. In some rooms, the inspections revealed additional stud and plumbing work required to prevent future issues.

NJ DMAVA continues to prioritize the health and well-being of both current and future residents. That is why our team has moved to identify issues, assess the appropriate course of action, and execute mitigation steps while conducting air sampling at each stage of the process.

Environmental Design, Inc. collected air samples from Liberty Wing rooms 440, 442, 447, 449, 451 and 453, which have undergone abatement treatment, and currently have portions the interior of the walls exposed. Results for two of the rooms indicate the total spore counts can be considered low per industry standards. Further, the types and quantities of spores reported from the samples do not reflect an unusual mold condition. Samples from the other rooms reflect similar results, and we are awaiting final information from the contractor.

The repairs to studs and plumbing inside the walls will take additional time, as will the replacement of drywall, the fresh paint and post-work site cleaning. NJ DMAVA is developing contracting documents for portions of this work.

To improve prevention efforts across all three NJ DMAVA homes, our facilities teams continue to cut 6x6 inch holes in the interior drywall of each room with a toilet, and replacing that square of drywall with a removable cap so that maintenance crews can better inspect the inside of the walls now and in the future.

As provided in previous letters, the following is CDC clarification on mold <https://www.cdc.gov/niosh/topics/indoorenv/moldtesting.html#:~:text=Appropriate%20remediation%20includes%3A%20Drying%20wetted%20materials%20within%2048,with%20proper%20containment%20when%20identifying%20mold%20on%20materials>

Please contact me at lisa.kranis@dmava.nj.gov to share any additional questions or concerns. If you have concerns, please provide us with specific details, such as room numbers, so that we can look into the matter. We welcome inputs from the Resident Council or any of our town halls as well.

Regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Lisa Kranis', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Lisa Kranis, LNHA, MPA, CDP
Chief Executive Officer