

COVID-19 Status



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Messages From The Department

January 7, 2025

Vineland Veterans Home Achieves Five Stars

Recently, the Veterans Memorial Home at Vineland was awarded an overall five-star rating from the U.S. Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS). This important achievement reflects the hard work of our dedicated healthcare heroes and is the result of positive findings from independent health inspections, staffing levels, and resident-level quality measures of clinical care. This recognition follows the 2023 award of the five-star rating to the Veterans Memorial Home at Paramus.

How are these ratings determined? Health inspection ratings are based upon the three most recent surveys, or inspections, conducted by the New Jersey Department of Health (DOH) on behalf of CMS. The staffing rating is based upon the number of nursing hours per resident per day and the number of registered nurse hours per resident per day. The quality measure rating is informed by individual resident health status in multiple care areas. For example, weight for each of our residents is tracked as an individual quality measure, routinely reviewed by our quality assurance teams, and informs this important benchmark of facility performance.

Here at the Department of Military and Veterans Affairs, we are committed to constant and never-ending improvement in our three homes. Vineland’s and Paramus’ achievement of an overall five star rating, and Menlo Park’s clinical deficiency-free surveys in 2024, reflect a deliberate process of assessment and improvement begun under my predecessor. I am so pleased with the progress that has been documented by CMS, DOH, and in other inspections conducted by the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs.

Five out of five stars is where we want to be. I congratulate and offer my personal thanks to everyone – the staff, volunteers, and families – who dedicate their time, talent, and energy to ensuring that Vineland is a safe and welcoming community for the Veterans, Veteran Spouses, and Gold Star Families who call our facility home.

– U.S. Air Force Brig. Gen. Yvonne L. Mays, Commissioner of New Jersey’s Department of Military and Veterans Affairs.

August 15, 2024



Menlo Park home receives CMS clinical deficiency-free survey

Menlo Park, N.J. – The New Jersey Veterans Memorial Home at Menlo Park received no clinical deficiencies for the no-notice survey, or inspection, conducted by the New Jersey Department of Health on behalf of the U.S. Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services from July 16, 2024. Menlo Park is one of three long-term care facilities operated by the N.J. Department of Military and Veterans Affairs.

“We will not stop striving to provide the residents of Menlo Park with the highest possible quality of life and care,” said Lisa Kranis, Chief Executive Officer of the Menlo Park home.

“I am proud of the dedicated team at Menlo Park for the hard work they do every day, and all that they have done to continuously improve care for our residents,” said U.S. Air Force Col. Yvonne L. Mays, Acting Commissioner of Veterans Affairs and Adjutant General of New Jersey. “These findings support all of that hard work across the home, especially their accomplishments over the last eighteen months.”

The survey was comprehensive and encompassed everything from the home’s infection control and clinical care to kitchen operations, human resources, emergency management, and housekeeping.

“Our team is laser-focused on top-to-bottom improvements to ensure the highest possible care and quality of life at our Veterans homes. We are determined to not only meet standards, but exceed them,” said Vincent Solomeno, Deputy Commissioner of Veterans Affairs and Administrator of Veterans Affairs.

- [Full News Release](#)



May 8, 2024



DMAVA thanks Veterans Memorial Homes volunteers

From April 17-24, 2024, DMAVA held three volunteer appreciation lunches for the hundreds of volunteers and dozens of organizations who support the Menlo Park, Paramus and Vineland Veterans Memorial homes through thousands of hours, donations and quality of life enhancements for the residents.

The homes are visited regularly by various Veterans, civic organizations and individual volunteers who provide the residents with companionship, gifts, parties, bus trips, entertainment, games and other recreational activities. To volunteer at any of the homes, contact the volunteer coordinator at the facility.

- [Menlo Park April 17, 2024 luncheon photo album](#)
- [Menlo Park Volunteer program information](#)
- [Paramus April 19, 2024 luncheon photo album](#)

- [Paramus Volunteer program information](#)
- [Vineland April 24, 2024 luncheon photo album](#)
- [Vineland Volunteer program informatio](#)

April 3, 2024



DMAVA Veterans Memorial Homes gain PPE storage units

Thanks to nearly \$869,000 in federal VA State Home Construction grants, the New Jersey Department of Military and Veterans Affairs Veterans Memorial homes at Paramus, Menlo Park and Vineland are gaining 2,500 square foot climate-controlled storage units for stockpiles of personal protective equipment. Construction at each facility is in various stages; the structures are slated to be complete within 90 days.

In October 2020, upon assumption of responsibilities as Adjutant General and Commissioner, Maj. Gen. Lisa J. Hou, D.O., directed DMAVA leadership to not only meet Department of Health PPE standards, but exceed them. The current DOH requirement is to maintain an 8-week supply of PPE. DMAVA maintains an 8-week supply at each home, and an additional home's worth 8-week supply at the DMAVA Lawrenceville campus. Climate-controlled space outside of the three homes allows staff to maximize space for residents within the homes while maintaining ready supplies in an event such as an epidemic or pandemic.

- [Vineland Images](#)
- [Paramus Images](#)
- [Menlo Park Images](#)

November 8, 2023

NJDMAVA launches two digital communication tools

After many months of preparation, the New Jersey Department of Military and Veterans Affairs launched two digital communication tools: digital learning management across the three New Jersey Veterans Memorial Homes at Paramus, Menlo Park and Vineland, as well as a department-wide notification system for time-sensitive information and updates.

"A consolidated digital platform for learning management improves our efficiency and oversight of staff professional training and development across each home," said Rochelle Guglielmo, Director of Veterans Healthcare Services. "Our staff members have many training requirements and opportunities, so this more modern approach helps keep us up to speed."

Learning management is far more than ensuring a baseline of knowledge, [explained Rebecca Resh](#), Learning Management Administrator at the New Jersey Veterans Memorial Home at Menlo Park. Digital learning management ushers professional growth.

"As new equipment comes along, new best practices, the way you are always going to be fresh, and really be able to take care of your residents, is if you keep up with what's going on in your field," said Resh.

For situations requiring more urgent notifications to staff, such as an infectious disease control policy updates or an active shooter situation, DMAVA is implementing another digital communication tool.

"We have a platform now for mass communication and targeted information distribution. Considering shift work, and the fact that in total, DMAVA employees could be in more than 50 locations on any given day, this system helps us reach our teammates faster," said Toby Tirrito, NJDMAVA Quartermaster and Emergency Management Assistance team leader.

“This set of upgrades to our operations are part of several modernization initiatives including [electronic records management](#) for our homes and support to our Veterans Services offices,” said Vincent Solomono, Deputy Commissioner of Veterans Affairs. “While many of these updates have been taking place behind the scenes, the ultimate goal is to deliver the best possible care and service to our Veterans and their families.”

- [Rebecca Resh Video Interview](#)
- [Rebecca Resh Audio Interview](#)

As of April 5, 2024

Menlo Park Abatement

The safety and well-being of residents, staff, and visitors is top priority. The New Jersey Veterans Memorial Home at Menlo Park is undergoing abatement treatment and facility repairs as outlined in the letters below.

Of note, the Department engaged Environmental Design, Inc., an independent environmental consulting firm, to conduct air quality samples before and after abatement treatments in resident rooms at the New Jersey Veterans Memorial Home at Menlo Park.

Prior to abatement treatment, Environmental Design, Inc., reported that the types and quantities of spores reported from the samples do not reflect an unusual mold condition in the facility. In the interest of current and future resident safety, NJDMAVA will continue the work of performing inspections, abatement, and repairs.

The following list contains update letters we have sent to residents, staff, family members, and those designated by powers of attorney.

- [5 April 2024 | Abatement Project Comes to a Conclusion](#)
- [29 March 2024 | Rooms are Resident Ready in Old Glory Wing / One Room Pending Bathroom Equipment Replacement in Stars and Stripes Wing](#)
- [22 March 2024 | Flush Valve Replacements pending in Old Glory and Stars and Stripes Wings](#)
- [15 March 2024 | Cleaning and Refurnishing Complete in Old Glory and Stars and Stripes Wings](#)
- [8 March 2024 | Flange and Drywall Finalizations in Stars and Stripes Wing / Final Toilet Installs in Old Glory and Stars and Stripes Wings](#)
- [1 March 2024 | Fixture and Trim Work continue in Old Glory Wing and Stars and Stripes Wings / Final Room Preparations are Underway in Old Glory Wing](#)
- [23 February 2024 | Fixtures, Trim and Final Cleaning within the Old Glory and Stars and Stripes wings Continues as Rooms Become Available in Old Glory Wing](#)
- [16 February 2024 | Final Cleaning in Old Glory Wing – Fixture and Trim Work Continues in Old Glory and Stars and Stripes Wings](#)
- [9 February 2024 | Fixture and Trim Work continue in Old Glory Wing](#)
- [2 February 2024 | Painting Almost Complete – Fixture and Trim Work Continue in Old Glory and Stars and Stripes Wings](#)
- [26 January 2024 | Residents Move Into Eagle Wing – Paint, Fixture, and Trim Work Continue in Old Glory and Stars and Stripes Wings](#)
- [19 January 2024 | Eagle Wing Rooms Complete and Resident Ready – Paint, Fixture and Trim Work Continues in Old Glory and Stars and Stripes Wings](#)
- [12 January 2024 | Final Cleaning in Eagle Wing – Drywall Complete while Fixture and Trim Work Continues in Old Glory and Stars and Stripes Wings](#)
- [5 January 2024 | Drywall Installation, Fixture and Trim Work Continues in Eagle, Old Glory and Stars and Stripes Wings](#)
- [29 December 2023 | Freedom Wing Rooms Complete and Resident Ready – Drywall, Fixture, and Trim Work Continues in Eagle, Old Glory, and Stars and Stripes Wings](#)
- [22 December 2023 | Final Cleaning in Freedom Wing - Abatement and Treatment Continues in Eagle, Old Glory, and Stars and Stripes Wings](#)
- [14 December 2023 | Final Cleaning in Freedom Wing - Abatement and Treatment Continues in Eagle, Old Glory, and Stars and Stripes Wings](#)
- [8 December 2023 | Abatement and Treatment Continues - Air Sample Results for Stars and Stripes](#)
- [1 December 2023 | Abatement and Treatment Continues - Painting Continues in Old Glory and Eagle Wings / Freedom Wing Rooms Near Completion](#)
- [24 November 2023 | Independence Wing Rooms Complete and Resident Ready – Air and Sample Results for Old Glory Wing / Abatement and Treatment Continues for Old Glory and Stars and Stripes Wings / Fixture, Trim Work, Facility Maintenance and Cleaning Continues in Freedom Wing](#)
- [17 November 2023 | Residents move into Liberty Wing/Painting and floor repair in Old Glory Wing/Trim, cleaning in Stars and Stripes Wing](#)
- [10 November 2023 | Liberty Wing Rooms Complete_Resident Ready/Fixture work, Cleaning in Independence Wing](#)
- [3 November 2023 | Abatement and Treatment Continues – Liberty Wing Trim & Fixture Work Continues / Old Glory Wing Drywall Complete](#)
- [27 October 2023 | Liberty Wing trim, fixture work continue/Freedom, Independence, Stars & Stripes, Old Glory Wing abatement and repair work continues](#)



- [20 October 2023 | Liberty Wing trim, fixture work continue, 2 rooms slated ready for residents/Air Sample Results for Old Glory rooms](#)
- [13 October 2023 | Liberty Wing trim, fixture work continue/Freedom, Independence, Stars & Stripes, Old Glory Wing abatement and repair work continues](#)
- [6 October 2023 | Abatement, Repair, Trim & Fixture work continue/Air Sample Results for Stars & Stripes, Old Glory Rooms](#)
- [29 September 2023 | Continued Abatement and Treatment and Completion to Painting](#)
- [22 September 2023 | Abatement and Repairs Continue and Painting Begins](#)
- [14 September 2023 | Abatement Continues and Air Sample Results for Stars and Stripes Wing](#)
- [8 September 2023 | Abatement and Repair Work Continue](#)
- [31 August 2023 | Air and Sample Results for Freedom Wing / Abatement and Treatment Continues for Freedom, Independence, and Stars and Stripes Wings / Painting Ready for Liberty and Eagle Wings](#)
- [25 August 2023 | Drywall in Eagle and Liberty wings, Abatement and Repair Continues in Independence, Freedom and Stars and Stripes wings](#)
- [18 August 2023 | Eagle Wing Abatement Treatment Completion – Air Sample Results](#)
- [11 August 2023 | Eagle Wing Abatement Treatment Continues – Air Sample Results](#)
- [04 August 2023 | Eagle Wing Abatement Room Update/Liberty Wing Repair and Drywall Update](#)
- [28 July 2023 | Eagle Wing Work Ongoing/Repair Scope of Work](#)
- [21 July 2023 | Eagle Wing Work Continues/Drywall Up in Liberty Wing](#)
- [14 July 2023 | Eagle Wing Abatement in Progress/Treatment and Samples Complete in Two Rooms](#)
- [07 July 2023 | Liberty Wing Abatement Treatment Complete - Air Sample Results](#)
- [30 June 2023 | Liberty Wing Abatement Nears Completion - Repairs/Drywall/Paint Ahead](#)
- [26 June 2023 | Pre-Abatement Air Sample Results](#)
- [22 June 2023 | Abatement in Progress - Awaiting Pre-Abatement Air Sample Results](#)
- [15 June 2023 | Abatement Begins - Air Samples Collected/6x6 Removeable Caps](#)
- [09 June 2023 | Menlo Park Home Air Filtration Information](#)
- [08 June 2023 | Contracted Licensed Industry Experts for Consulting and Abatement](#)
- [01 June 2023 | Room Inspections/Consultant Site Vists/Work Plan Development](#)
- [10 May 2023 | Drywall Concern/Room-By-Room Survey/Resident Movements/Staff Advisory by Display Notificiations](#)



Menlo Park Town Hall



Menlo Park Town Hall and Resident Council

On June 29, 2023, Vincent Solomeno III, the Deputy Commissioner of Veterans Affairs, held a town hall meeting with the residents, staff, and families of the New Jersey Veterans Memorial Home at Menlo Park.

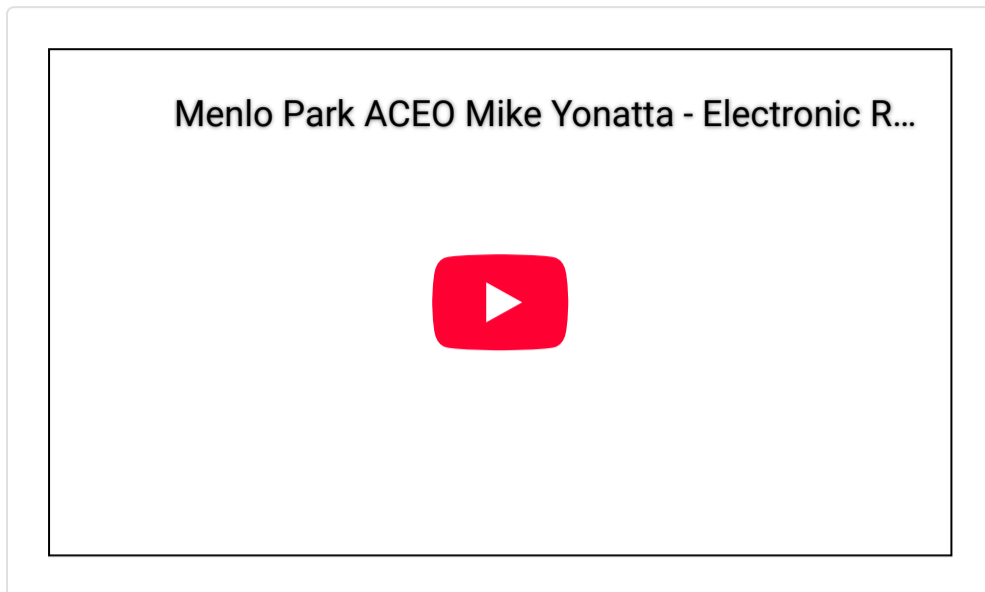
October 11, 2023

Electronic Records Management

This week, staff at the NJ Veterans Memorial Homes in Menlo Park, Paramus, and Vineland launched use of an Electronic Records Management system for key note-taking functions, a significant step in DMAVA's many ongoing initiatives to modernize the home's processes and improve the resident care.

DMAVA secured the additional software modules required to migrate to a fully-automated Electronic Medical Records (EMR) system in April 2023. The transition from paper documents and paper-based procedures to electronic methods has taken place in deliberate phases, involving staff training, data entry, scanning work, file transfers, and coordination for each resident and process. Use of this system will continue reduce medical errors, enhance veterans care plans and improve efficiency operations.

Thanks to Mike Yannotta for telling us about the project, and sharing his own story in long term care.



July 20, 2023

News Release - Menlo Park receives zero-deficiency COVID-19 Focused Infection Control survey

Lawrenceville, N.J - The New Jersey Department of Military and Veteran Affairs (NJDMAVA) was notified by the New Jersey Department of Health that the no-notice COVID-19 Focused Infection Control survey conducted on June 23, 2023 at the Menlo Park Veterans Memorial Home resulted in zero deficiencies. This indicates that the facility complies with infection control regulations and the recommended COVID-19 practices from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS).

"I am proud of the staff of Menlo Park for the hard work they do every day, and the work they have done to continuously improve care to our residents," said U.S. Army Brig. Gen. Lisa J. Hou, D.O., Commissioner of Veterans Affairs and The Adjutant General of New Jersey. "The Department remains committed to a continuous evaluation of the care we provide our Veterans, Veterans' spouses, and Gold Star Family members, and we will not stop striving to provide the residents of Menlo Park with the highest possible quality of care."

Continuous process improvement and organizational compliance feedback is built into routine and no-notice inspections by the New Jersey Department of Health, the U.S. Department of Veteran Affairs, and NJDMAVA's own internal processes. The survey outcomes reflect a number of efforts to provide residents of Menlo Park with the best possible care, including NJDMAVA's work with infection control consultants, the department's own internal inspections, as well as staff training and professional development.

"Never does a single inspection or rating mean we rest in our efforts to protect our heroes' health and well-being," Hou explained. "We welcome resident, staff, family, and third-party insights. Professional and community partnerships contribute daily to our residents' quality of life."

[Official News Release](#)

January 11, 2023

Paramus FY 2022 Medicare Cost Report

[Click here](#) to view the adjusted Paramus FY 2022 Medicare Cost Report in accordance with New Jersey Public Law 2021, chapter 457, subsection b(1). New Jersey Office of Budget and Management website may be [viewed here](#).

October 31, 2022

DMAVA Veterans Memorial Homes Annual Financial Reporting Compliance

[Click here](#) for New Jersey Department of Military and Veterans Affairs financial statements and CMS cost reports in accordance with New Jersey Public Law 2021, chapter 457, subsection b(1). The Veterans Memorial Homes at Menlo Park, Paramus, and Vineland constitute nursing homes as defined in N.J.S.A. 26:2H-29 and are subject to additional reporting requirements in coordination with the New Jersey Department of Health.

New Jersey Office of Budget and Management website may be [viewed here](#).

Donations


The Department of Military and Veterans Affairs (DMAVA) is grateful for all of the well wishes we receive not only for the residents at our three Veterans Homes but also for the staff who care for them. For anyone interested in making donations or to volunteer, please contact each home directly to coordinate.

- [Paramus Veterans Memorial Home](#): 201-634-8500/8501
- [Menlo Park Veterans Memorial Home](#): 732-452-4258
- [Vineland Veterans Memorial Home](#): 856-405-4213

You can also learn how to make a donation to the State of NJ to be distributed to our hospitals, health care workers, and first responders here: covid19.nj.gov/forms/ppedonations.



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Veterans Memorial Homes

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Menlo Park

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