



STATE OF WASHINGTON  
DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS  
*Washington Soldiers Home and Colony*

July 10, 2020

Dear Resident Representative,

Today, we received confirmation that one of our employees was diagnosed with COVID-19, the employee is now self-isolated at home.

We realize this news is concerning and we want to reassure you that we are working closely with the Pierce Public Health District and following guidance from CDC, CMS and our State Department of Health to ensure we are taking every possible precaution. We will stay in contact with the employee to ensure they get the care they need.

Our care teams will conduct enhanced surveillance, including 4-hour symptom and temperature checks, for residents in the affected units for the next 14 days.

Additional environmental cleaning took place in areas that the staff member worked and throughout the facility. We are in the process of notifying and will be testing all staff who had close or direct contact with the employee.

We are also asking our staff to pay close attention to whether they have any symptoms, including the presence of a fever. As part of our ongoing screening process, all staff are screened upon arrival at work each day. This process includes a series of questions around whether symptoms are present and a temperature check. In addition, staff will take their temperature at least twice a day and are also asked to report any symptoms that occur after coming to work.

We know that this news is difficult to hear and want you to know that we are doing everything within our power to keep them safe and healthy. As you know, our Washington Soldiers Home team is an amazing group of individuals and I have no doubt that together we will get through this challenge!

If you have any questions, please reach out to your care team or to me directly at 360-839-5621.

Sincerely,

Robert Pence, NHA