



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

August 21, 2020

Dear Residents, families and friends of the Washington State Soldiers Home,

We are writing today in our continued effort to keep you informed on what is happening at the Washington State Soldiers Home.

As we mentioned in some of our past communications, we have been working hard to identify safe ways for residents and families to meet with each other in person. So, we are very excited to announce that the Washington State Soldiers Home will slowly start allowing in-person visits, using a new visiting station. Resident health and safety remains our primary concern. Visits will occur under limited and controlled conditions, coordinated by the facility. There will be strict visitation rules using guidance from the Governor's Office, Department of Social and Health Services, and Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services. We are confident that together we can ensure safe visits while reuniting Soldiers Home residents with family and friends.

Visits will be scheduled starting on September 1st, 2020. Family members will be able to schedule visits, with a maximum of 2 family members per visit, visitors must also be at least 2 years old. Visits will be 30 minutes in length and located outside in the gazebo at the center of our beautiful campus. The visiting station will not allow for any direct contact between visitors and residents. Visitors must adhere to social distancing and wear masks at all times while on the campus. Visitors are not able to bring gifts, clothing, food items, or other items to give to residents. This will help prevent the spread of infection. All visitors will also pass through a screening station where temperature checks, wellness questionnaire, and hand sanitizing will take place.

As we look forward to having many of you back on campus, being fair and equitable to everyone is essential. Being on time, adhering to the time constraints and not cancelling the visit will maximize everyone's opportunity to spend time with one another. Our current capacity for visits allows to schedule three visits a day on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays, with the hopes of expansion as we begin to allow outside volunteers to assist on the campus.

Also, we would like to inform you that a new security checkpoint will be in place at the front gate of the campus. This check point will serve as a monitoring station for all those coming on campus. The attendant stationed at this check point will have a list of those visiting for the day and will not allow anyone who is not authorized to be on campus proceed. If you have items you wish to have passed onto you loved one please advise the attendant. They will secure you items and have someone deliver them to your loved one.

As the threat of COVID-19 still looms over us, we have gone to great lengths to keep your loved ones safe and healthy. To date, we have minimal exposure to this horrible virus and have not had any large outbreaks. If this situation changes, visits will unfortunately have to be put on hold. We will share information with you as it is available, and ask for your continued patience and support. Our ultimate goal remains to keep COVID-19 out of our Home and it will take everyone's continued efforts for us to be successful. Also, please see additional guidelines attached to this letter.

If you would like to schedule a visit with your loved one, or have questions, please speak with Suzette Hollowell in Social Services at 360-893-4564.

Sincerely,



Robert Pence, NHA  
Administrator

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