

December 30, 2020

Port Orchard: Today, the Washington Veterans Home in Port Orchard became the first of Washington's State Veterans Homes to receive the COVID-19 vaccine. Vaccine clinics are scheduled for the other Veterans Homes on:

December 31, Walla Walla Veterans Home January 7, Spokane Veterans Home January 7, Washington Soldiers Home in Orting.

The Pfizer-BioNTech COVID-19 Vaccine is being provided through Operation Warp Speed and is being administered by Walgreens.

The Veterans Home requested 525 vaccines for today's clinic. These will be provided to Veterans Home Residents, staff and Transitional Housing Program Clients who consented to the vaccine.

The Veterans Home's second clinic is scheduled for January 20th. On this day, everyone who received a first shot will receive the second shot, and anyone that missed the first clinic may receive their first shot. On February 10th, the second shot will be provided to those who received their first shot on January 20th.

WDVA is very excited that the vaccination process has begun; however, receiving the vaccine today will not immediately allow us to change our current COVID-19 protocols. We are hopeful that when enough community members receive the vaccine, our state as a whole will begin to move forward. Additional information from the Department of Health on vaccines in Washington State can be found at: <u>COVID-19 safety behaviors remain necessary, even as vaccinations begin > Washington State Department of Health</u>.

More information on Operation Warp Speed is available at: <u>https://www.hhs.gov/coronavirus/explaining-operation-warp-speed/index.html</u>

Photos of today's vaccine clinic can be found at: <u>2020 COVID-19 Vaccines</u> | Flickr

In an effort to provide information as quickly and accurately as possible, we have developed a website to provide information to families and resident representatives, <u>https://www.dva.wa.gov/covid</u>.

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Media Contact Heidi Audette Communications and Legislative Director (360) 791-8966 – cell heidia@dva.wa.gov