



STATE OF WASHINGTON

DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS

Washington Soldiers Home, 1301 Orting Kapowsin Hwy E • Orting, Washington 98360

Serving Those Who Served

December 4, 2020

Dear Soldiers Home Residents, Families and Representatives:

In an effort to keep you informed on COVID-19 and the Washington Soldiers Home, we are providing several updates on testing and test results.

- On November 30, we shared a letter letting you know of a possible staff member diagnosed with COVID-19. Today, we are following up to let you know that two negative PCR lab tests have been received for this staff member, which means that the original rapid test is considered a false positive.
- A different staff member has received a positive COVID-19 test result. This employee last worked on November 24th and received a negative rapid test result on Nov. 24th as part of our regular staff testing. On November 27th, they were tested again in the community because they had new COVID-19 symptoms, and this test result was positive. As a precaution, today all residents in the affected wing were proactively tested using the rapid point of care testing machine, no Soldiers Home residents have symptoms. Three residents have received positive results with the rapid point of care test machine. Because of the high incidence of false positives using this machine, they are being retested and these PCR tests are being sent to the lab today. Each of the three residents and two of their roommates are currently isolated.
- Out of an abundance of caution, all Soldiers Home residents are being proactively tested today using the rapid point of care test and will be re-tested next week using the PCR lab test. All residents are also being monitored for symptoms every four hours and additional environmental cleaning is taking place throughout the Soldiers Home.

Our Soldiers Home team continues to be tested regularly based on the County's positivity rate and guidance from the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services.