



STATE OF WASHINGTON

DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS

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

Serving Those Who Served

December 29, 2020

Dear Soldiers Home Residents, Families and Family Representatives:

As we continue our COVID-19 testing, we have identified **one** additional resident and one additional staff member **who has been** diagnosed with COVID-19 since our last message. Since our outbreak began in mid-December, 3 residents have now recovered from COVID-19 based on the length of time since their test and their last symptoms. Our thoughts are with each of these residents and their families as they battle this new enemy.

All residents were tested again today and we expect to have results later in the week, additional results will be shared in the event of any positive results. Testing will continue until fourteen days have passed without a new positive. In addition, we are in close contact with the Tacoma Pierce County Health Department and following guidance from the CDC, CMS and our State Department of Health to ensure we are taking every possible precaution. Residents are also being monitored for symptoms every four hours for at least the next fourteen days.

We continue working with the Tacoma Pierce County Health Department to determine next steps with regard to additional measures. We also are following guidance from CDC, CMS and our State Department of Health to ensure we are safeguarding our residents and staff.

Staff will continue to monitor 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 are asked to report any symptoms that occur after coming to work.

The Soldiers Home, is following guidance from the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services, which requires regular testing of all long-term care facility staff. Currently the rate of positivity in Pierce County requires staff to be tested once each week. This may result in the identification of asymptomatic carriers, but is an important tool in defending against COVID-19.

CONTACT INFORMATION:

If you would prefer to receive these messages more quickly via email, please provide your email address to romyr@dva.wa.gov or call 360-893-4501.

VACCINE INFORMATION:

The WDVA Veterans Homes Program has registered for the Operation Warp Speed Pharmacy Partnership Program. Through this program, the residents and staff will receive one of the vaccine series authorized for administration.

The tentative vaccine clinic date at the Washington Soldiers Home is January 7, 2021.

One of the requirements to receive the vaccine is a consent form. If you are a family member or representative that holds POA for your resident you should have received a consent form. If your resident is unable to self-consent, please fill in the name field, section B2, sign and return this to us ASAP! If you need a new copy, it can be found online at:

<https://www.dva.wa.gov/sites/default/files/2020-12/Walgreens%20COVID-19%20LTFCF%20VAR%2012.08.2020.pdf>

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,

<https://www.dva.wa.gov/covid>.

Sincerely



Robert Pence, Administrator