



STATE OF WASHINGTON

DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS

*Washington Veterans Home • 1141 Beach Drive E • Port Orchard, Washington 98366 • (360) 895-4700*

January 21, 2021

Dear Washington Veterans Home Residents, Family and Representatives,

We are writing to provide an update on our COVID-19 testing and results, today, one of our contract staff members tested positive for COVID-19. The staff member is isolating at home.

As we have previously reported, residents in the affected areas will be tested and retested every 5-7 days until 14 days have passed without a new resident positive. Additional environmental cleaning continues to take place and the Washington Veterans Home will conduct enhanced surveillance, including 4-hour symptom and temperature checks, for residents in the affected areas for the next 14 days.

We are working with the Kitsap Public Health District and following guidance from CDC, CMS and our State Department of Health to ensure we are safeguarding our residents and staff.

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

The Veterans 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 Kitsap 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.

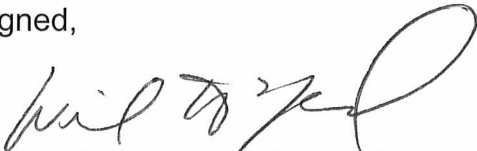
**Vaccine Information:**

Yesterday, we conducted our 2<sup>nd</sup> Vaccine Clinic through the Operation Warp Speed Pharmacy Partnership Program. Approximately 491 vaccines were administered to residents and staff members. This included 2<sup>nd</sup> doses for many individuals as well as 1<sup>st</sup> doses for those who missed the first clinic. We will have one final Vaccine Clinic

February 10, 2021 to provide only 2<sup>nd</sup> doses to those who need them. If you are a resident POA and they received their first shot during the January 20<sup>th</sup> clinic, we will need a second consent form prior to the next vaccine clinic date. 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%20LTCF%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>.

Signed,



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