



STATE OF WASHINGTON

DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS

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

*Serving Those Who Served*

July 9, 2021, 2021

Dear Soldiers Home Residents, Family and Representatives,

In an effort to maintain transparency, WDVA continues to share information on COVID-19 and its impact on our State Veterans Homes.

We are writing to provide an update on our COVID-19 testing and results. Today, we received confirmation of a COVID-19 positive test result for 1 staff member. We are working closely with the Tacoma Pierce County Health Department and following guidance from them, Centers for Disease Control, Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS), and our State Department of Health to ensure we are safeguarding our residents and staff.

Residents and staff in the affected areas will be tested according to guidance provided by the Tacoma Pierce County Health Department. We will retest every 3-7 days until 14 days have passed without a positive. Additional environmental cleaning continues to take place and the Soldiers Home will conduct enhanced surveillance, including 4-hour symptom and temperature checks, for residents in the affected areas for a period of at least 14 days since the recent staff positive test result.

Staff are wearing appropriate PPE throughout the nursing care building and we have adequate supplies of all PPE.

Staff at all State Veterans Homes 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. Staff are asked to report any symptoms that occur after coming to work.

The State Veterans Homes are 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 on a monthly basis.

As a part of our continued efforts to curb the spread of the COVID-19 virus, the State Veterans Homes are now vaccine administrators and will hold scheduled vaccination clinics for unvaccinated residents and staff on-site. We encourage all residents, staff,

and community members who are able and eligible to be vaccinated to consider getting vaccinated for COVID-19.

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,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Robert Pence', with several horizontal strokes above it.

Robert Pence, Administrator