



STATE OF WASHINGTON

DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS

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

August 26, 2020

Dear Residents and Resident Representatives,

Our team is working hard on everything from cleaning and sanitizing frequently touched surfaces to closely monitoring residents each day for symptoms. We know we can't let our guard down for one moment as the COVID-19 virus continues to have significant impacts in our County. Reminders about social distancing, properly wearing masks, and frequent handwashing are posted throughout the Home and we continue to work with residents and staff to ensure we're following the guidelines. We have not had a positive test result since July 29, 2020 when a staff member was diagnosed. This is good news as it indicates our proactive measures, such as daily employee screening and proper use of PPE, are doing what they're supposed to be doing! As we approach fall and the annual flu season, we are ordering flu shots for residents and staff. As they become available in the community, we encourage you to get one as well to help prevent the virus from spreading in the community. While we know it will be some months before there is a COVID-19 vaccine available, the more we can do to prevent any respiratory illness in our Home and community, the better off we all will be.

We want to let you know that unfortunately, one of our residents who was transferred to Harrison Hospital, has contracted COVID-19 while in the hospital. We wish them well as they recover and will stay in close contact with their medical team.

To prevent the introduction or spread of the virus in our Home, we also want to let you know that we will be asking residents to wear masks when they leave their rooms. This step is in line with Governor Inslee's mask requirements for residents in nursing homes. Cloth masks will be provided and will be laundered by the facility.

When it comes to the status of PPE in our Home, I am glad to report that we are fully stocked in all areas. More PPE is being ordered and will be on hand should the need arise in the coming months. Staff continue to wear PPE that is appropriate for the type of care being provided to each resident.

If you've had the opportunity to visit your loved one using one of the new visiting stations, you know what a wonderful tool this is to allow in-person visits to resume safely! If you haven't yet been able to schedule a visit, we thank you for your patience

as we work through the many requests we've had. I know that some families are challenged by the 2 person visitor limit, this is a requirement of external regulations, so it is not an area where we have flexibility. Thank you for wearing of masks and using social distancing at all times while visiting on the campus. So far, we've had 114 visits and we're continuing to schedule as the requests come in. If you'd like to schedule an out-door visit in one of the visiting stations, please contact Barbara Holbrook at 360-895-4736. If you'd like to schedule a virtual visit, please contact Activities at 360-895-4376.

We are also pleased to welcome our new Director of Nursing Services, Helen Taylor, who started on July 27. Helen served over 14 years in the United States Army Reserve and was deployed in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom with the 348th Medical Corps Hospital. Born and raised in New York, Helen completed her Master of Science in Nursing at Chamberlain College of Nursing and her Master in Business Administration at Keller Graduate School of Management. Helen has worked in long term care for 25 years, serving in various positions such as Certified Nursing Assistant, Assistant Director of Nursing, Resident Care Manager, Wound Care Manager, Compliance Manager and Regional Director of Education and Training. We are happy to welcome Helen to the Veterans Home team!

Finally, I'm sure you are all aware, and perhaps also impacted, by changes to how kids will be going back to school in the fall. Many of our staff members have school age children and will be working through the new schedules and how they will provide assistance to their children as they embark on virtual learning this fall. We ask for your patience as we work together to support our team members and their families.

Thank you trusting us with providing care to your loved one, and please let us know if you have any questions or comments.

As our COVID-19 journey continues, we will continue sending information and updates. Should you have questions or concerns along the way, please feel free please contact us at 360-895-4700 with any questions or concerns you may have.

Sincerely,



William McElya, BSNS MBA LNHA
Administrator
Washington Veterans Home
Department of Veterans Affairs