



STATE OF WASHINGTON
DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS

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

November 24, 2020

Dear Washington Veterans Home Residents, Family and Representatives,

We have received confirmation that one of our nursing students that had visited the Washington Veterans Home was diagnosed with COVID-19, after conducting contact tracing within our home, the two potential residents that could have been exposed have been tested and have both received negative results. (Please note, that if you have not been personally contacted by our staff, then your loved one could not have had come into any contact and there is no concern).

We want to reassure residents, staff and family members that we are working closely with the Kitsap County Regional Health District and following guidance from CDC, CMS and our State Department of Health to ensure we are taking every possible precaution.

Based on the positive test result and positive rates in Kitsap County, staff will continue to be proactively testing monthly, until CMS guidance recommends moves to a weekly format. Additionally, we are temporarily suspending the nursing students from entering into the facility and extensive environmental cleaning took place in areas that the nursing student worked and the Washington Veterans Home will conduct enhanced surveillance, including 4-hour symptom and temperature checks, for residents in the affected units for the next 14 days.

We are asking our staff 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 will take their temperature at least twice a day and are also asked to report any symptoms that occur after coming to work.

We are still scheduling virtual visits using FaceTime, Facebook Messenger and Google Duo calls via your cell phones, computers, laptops or iPad. If you would like to schedule a window or virtual visit, please contact Tami Reuter at (360) 895-4376.

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,



William McElya, BSNS MBA LNHA
Administrator U.S. Army
Washington Veterans Home
Department of Veterans Affairs



"Serving Those Who Served"