



STATE OF WASHINGTON

DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS

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

December 18, 2020

Dear Washington Veterans Home Residents, Family and Representatives,

Today, we received confirmation that a WDVA contract staff member has been diagnosed with COVID-19. The test was performed as part of our required weekly all-staff COVID-19 testing. The contractor is currently self-isolating.

We are working closely with the Kitsap Public Health District and following guidance from the CDC, CMS and our State Department of Health to ensure we are taking every possible precaution.

Residents in the affected areas have been tested and all results have been negative. Residents in the affected areas will remain in quarantine for 14 days. Additional environmental cleaning continues to take place and we will conduct enhanced surveillance, including 4 -hour symptom and temperature checks, for residents in the affected areas 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 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.

With news of the COVID-19 vaccine being shipped and administered to health care providers and long-term care facility residents, we also want to provide an update on how the Washington State Veterans Homes are participating in the vaccine process.

The WDVA Veterans Homes Program has registered for the Operation Warp Speed Pharmacy Partnership Program. Through this program, residents and staff will receive one of the vaccine series authorized for administration through Walgreens. Our partners at Walgreens will set up a vaccine clinic in our Homes where both residents and staff, who have signed consents, will be vaccinated.

At this time, we do not have details regarding the dates of immunization or the specific product that will be administered; however, as soon as we have details from our Walgreens representatives, we will share this information.

More information on Operation Warp Speed is available at: <https://www.hhs.gov/coronavirus/explaining-operation-warp-speed/index.html>

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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Administrator U.S. Army
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