



STATE OF WASHINGTON

DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS

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

January 6, 2021

Dear Washington Veterans Home Residents, Family and Representatives,

As the overall Covid-19 cases in our country increase exponentially, there are additional cases increasing in Kitsap County. We want to provide you with our Washington Veterans Home update.

It is with deep sadness that we share the loss of one of our Veterans Home Residents. The Veteran was diagnosed with COVID-19 and sadly passed away, either from the effects of COVID-19 or due to other medical conditions that were present prior to the COVID-19 diagnosis. We offer our condolences to their family and we share their sense of loss of this brave hero. Losing one of our Veterans Home family members is never easy, but it is even more difficult given these circumstances.

As our facility-wide testing continues, one additional resident and two additional staff have been diagnosed with COVID-19. We continue to closely monitor all residents and to isolate the COVID-19 positive resident. Staff who are diagnosed are self-isolating at home. In addition, we are in close contact with the Department of Health Infection Preventionist as well as the Kitsap Department of Health to determine whether there are additional steps we can take to prevent further spread of the virus.

We want to take a moment to thank our residents, families and our entire Veterans Home Team for your support and understanding during these incredibly difficult times. Please know that our team is working around the clock to provide the best care and ensure the Home is cleaned and sanitized allowing us to continue providing the safe and compassionate care each resident so richly deserves.

Staff 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. 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:

The WDVA Veterans Homes Program has registered for the Operation Warp Speed Pharmacy Partnership Program. Through this program, the residents and staff will receive one of the vaccine series authorized for administration.

Our second clinic is set for January 20, 2021. Residents and staff who received a first vaccine shot on December 30 will receive their second shot on this day. Residents and staff who would like to receive the COVID-19 Vaccine may also get their first shot on January 20th. If you are a resident POA, please ensure we have received your signed consent as soon as possible as vaccinations must be ordered 24 hours in advance of the vaccine clinic. 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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