



STATE OF WASHINGTON

**DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS**

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

*Sewing Those Who Served*

January 06, 2021

Dear WSH Resident, Family and Resident Representatives:

It is with sadness that I share that another of our Soldiers Home residents has passed away following their diagnosis with COVID-19. We offer our condolences to their family as they go through this difficult time. Each of our Residents is a treasure to us, and we also feel a sense of loss from their passing.

Facility-wide testing continues with all residents being tested on January 5 and all staff on January 6. We will keep you informed if additional positive cases are identified. We will also stay in close contact with the Department of Health Infection Preventionist as well as the Tacoma-Pierce County Health District to determine whether there are additional steps we can take to prevent further spread of the virus.

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 Soldiers 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 Pierce 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.

**CONTACT INFORMATION:**

If you would prefer to receive these messages more quickly via email, please provide your email address to [romyr@dva.wa.gov](mailto:romyr@dva.wa.gov) or call 360-893-4501.

**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.

As a reminder, our vaccine clinic is set for January 7. 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>.

Sincerely



Robert Pence, Administrator