



STATE OF WASHINGTON

DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS

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

Serving Those Who Served

January 08, 2021

Dear WSH Resident, Family and Resident Representatives:

In our continued effort to share information with you, we are sad to share the loss of four additional Soldiers Home residents following their diagnosis with COVID-19. We offer our condolences to their family as they go through this difficult time.

As a result of our facility-wide testing, five additional residents, and one additional staff member have also been diagnosed with COVID-19. We continue to work closely with the Department of Health Infection Preventionist as well as the Tacoma-Pierce County Health District.

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 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.

We had our first vaccine clinic on January 7 and look forward to the second clinic that will take place in about three weeks. 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>.

We know that it's hard for you to continue hearing such heartbreaking news; however, we are committed to being transparent and openly sharing the status of our Home.

Sincerely



Robert Pence, Administrator