



STATE OF WASHINGTON  
DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS

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

February 5, 2021

Dear Washington Veterans Home Residents, Family and Representatives,

We are writing to keep you updated on the COVID-19 status in our Home. I am happy to report that we have not had any new COVID-19 cases in residents since Jan 21, 2021. Since this date they have all fully recovered.

You can find cumulative information on the number of residents and staff who have been diagnosed with COVID-19 since the beginning of the pandemic at [www.dva.wa.gov/covid](http://www.dva.wa.gov/covid).

As we have mentioned before, we have completed our first two COVID-19 Vaccine clinics. Residents and staff who received a first vaccine shot will receive their second shot during our final vaccine clinic in a few 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. A second consent is needed for the second shot. 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>

Are you interested in knowing when you can get your COVID-19 Vaccine? Use the [Phase Finder Tool](#) to see when you're eligible and where you can get it!

With the new Healthy Washington – Roadmap to Recovery plan in effect, you may be curious as to what this means for our Home. As of today, the Puget Sound (King, Pierce, Snohomish) and West (Grays Harbor, Lewis, Pacific, Thurston ) Regions are the only areas in Phase 2. Phases are updated every other Friday, so Feb. 14 will be the next opportunity for regions to move forward or backward in phases.

Long-term care facilities are required to follow the [Safe Start For Long Term Care Recommendations and Requirements](#) so while a Home's Region may be in one phase, the Home may be in another based on community and facility positivity and transmission rates, along with other factors.

All WDVA Veterans Homes are in Phase 1 of the Safe Start for LTC document:

- Family and Visitors in Phase 1 & 2: We are receiving questions about how COVID-19 vaccines will impact family and visitor policies in our Homes. At this time, the CDC has not changed their recommendations around allowing visitors and families in long term care facilities. So even if both the resident and the family member or visitor have been vaccinated, they are still not permitted to enter the Home until Phase 3.
- Compassionate Care, End of Life, Essential Support Person, Window and Outdoor Visits in Phase 1 & 2: These scheduled and monitored visits are allowed in Veterans Home, following the guidance in Section II of the Safe Start for LTC document. Outbreaks and staffing levels may impact these visits.

- Dining: Communal dining is allowed for Residents who are not COVID-19 positive following [QSO-20-39-NH](#) guidance, while maintaining social distancing and sanitizing before and after meals.
- Activities: Group activities may occur for Residents who are not COVID-19 positive following the guidance in [QSO-20-39-NH](#). Virtual activities are still encouraged.
- Other measures such as universal use of PPE, employee screening, frequent cleaning, handwashing and social distancing requirements all remain in effect.

We know the past year has been incredibly challenging for you and your loved ones and while we continue to move closer to normal in some areas, we still must follow the CDC and CMS guidelines to ensure our residents and staff are safe and healthy.

Signed,

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