



STATE OF WASHINGTON

DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS

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

March 23, 2021

Dear Veterans Home Residents, Families and Resident Representatives:

We have now passed the one-year mark of our agency implementing mandatory restrictions on visitors and other changes to comply with COVID-19 prevention measures. We know the strain on residents and families has been significant and look forward to helping family and friends reunite; however, we want to remind everyone that our campus remains closed to all unscheduled visits. This includes people who have received vaccines.

Recently, the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) issued new visitation guidance for long term care facilities. Because facilities must always follow the most restrictive guidance from state or local health entities, we had to wait until the modifications to the Safe Start for Long Term Care Plan were released to modify our current process.

Below is information on how we are implementing the Resident Visitor and Compassionate Care Visitor guidelines and attached is the new [WDVA Visitor Agreement](#), which must be filled out by all visitors prior to entering a resident room.

Please note that implementing these visits will take some time. Below are several of the safeguards we will take to ensure the safety and security of residents and staff, a full list is included in the [Visitor Agreement](#):

- All Resident Visits and Compassionate Care Visits will be scheduled for specific start and stop times to ensure all residents are able to receive a visitor as soon as feasible.
- The number of visits allowed each day will be limited by the total number of visitors allowed in the building at a time to allow for social distancing, as well as the capacity of our staff members to schedule appointments and follow the guidelines established in the Safe Start Plan.
- For regular resident indoor visits, a maximum of two adults and two children will be permitted; however, all visitors (including children) must be able to properly wear all required PPE.
- For regular indoor visits, either the resident or all of the visitors must be vaccinated. If they are not vaccinated, only outdoor visits are permitted.
- We will offer COVID-19 testing for visitors, as long as we have adequate testing supplies.

We thank you in advance for your patience and invite you to reach out to Barbara Holbrook at 360-895-4736 if you would like to schedule a visit.

Additional information is located in the WDVA Visitor Agreement (Attached), so please review this document if you are interested in learning more about scheduling a visit. Our Social Work team will also be working with residents to schedule visits and our care teams will continue to evaluate the need for Compassionate Care visits based on resident needs.

Thank you in advance for your patience as we embark on this new opportunity to allow for more personal interaction in our Veterans Home.

Additionally,

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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