



STATE OF WASHINGTON

DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS

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

August 7, 2021

I want to thank each of you for your patience. I know these letters are hard to receive, particularly when they are sent so frequently. Please know that our team is working hard and using every resource and technique that we know of, to keep you and your loved one safe and virus free.

New information:

As we were completing our proactive testing on all residents at the Washington Veterans Home, we received confirmation of five additional COVID-19 positive test results for residents and two additional COVID-19 positive test results for staff. This brings the total to nine positive residents and five positive staff since July 30, 2021. All residents have now been tested and will continue to be tested every 3-7 days until 14 days have passed without a resident positive.

As a part of our continued efforts to curb the spread of the COVID-19 virus, the State Veterans Homes are vaccine administrators and hold scheduled vaccination clinics for unvaccinated residents, staff, and now family and visitors on-site. We encourage all residents, staff, and community members who are able and eligible to be vaccinated to consider getting vaccinated for COVID-19. If you are interested in receiving a vaccine and would like more information about our upcoming Vaccine Clinics, please call 360-895-4466.

Previously reported information:

All residents at the Veterans Home will be retested at least every 3-7 days until 14 days have passed without a new positive.

Additional environmental cleaning continues to take place and we will conduct enhanced surveillance, including 4-hour symptom and temperature checks, for residents for the next 14 days.

We continue working with the Kitsap Public Health District to determine next steps or additional measures. We also are following guidance from CDC, CMS and our State Department of Health to ensure we are safeguarding our residents and staff.

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 staff to be tested weekly.

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>.

Yours in Service,

William McElya, BSNS, MBA, LNHA
Administrator U.S. Army
Washington State Department of Veteran Affairs (WDVA)
Washington Veterans Home Port Orchard, WA
(O) 360-895-4705
(Fx) 360-895-4453