



STATE OF WASHINGTON  
DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS

*Washington Soldiers Home, 1301 Orting Kapowsin Hwy E • Orting, Washington 98360*  
*Serving Those Who Served*

August 19, 2021

Dear Soldiers Home Residents, Family and Representatives,

We are writing to provide an update on our COVID-19 testing and results. We have had a total of two employees test positive for COVID-19 as of our August 9<sup>th</sup> testing. With the increase in our county positivity rates we are currently testing our staff twice a week and we have had no other positive staff test results. 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.

We continue to do surveillance testing on all residents weekly and have also had no positive test results. Next week will be our last round of resident testing and if all tests are negative we will resume operations as it was before August 9<sup>th</sup>.

We continue to work closely with the Tacoma Pierce County Health Department and following guidance from them, Centers for Disease Control, Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS), and our State Department of Health to ensure we are safeguarding our residents and staff.

If additional positive cases of COVID-19 among facility staff or residents are identified through testing, WDVA will provide updates to ensure staff, residents, families, caregivers, and the community are informed of current facility status.

As a part of our continued efforts to curb the spread of the COVID-19 virus, our home is hosting a vaccination clinic on Thursday September 2nd for all unvaccinated staff and residents who wish to receive the vaccine. We encourage all residents, staff, and community members who are able and eligible to be vaccinated to consider getting vaccinated for COVID-19.

Additionally, the CDC has officially recommended additional vaccines for people with weakened immune systems. Our Veterans Home medical team is reviewing CDC guidance and resident records to determine who might be eligible at this time. Because the State Veterans Homes are vaccine administrators, we will be able to provide the additional vaccine to eligible residents, who choose to receive it, at our facilities.

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,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Robert Pence".

Robert Pence, Administrator