



STATE OF WASHINGTON

**DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS**

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

*Serving Those Who Served*

September 7, 2021

Dear Soldiers Home Residents, Family and Representatives,

We are writing to provide an update on our COVID-19 testing and results.

Today we received confirmation that one of our Soldiers Home staff members has been diagnosed with COVID-19. Since 8/30/2021 two staff and one resident have been diagnosed with COVID-19. We are working 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.

We will continue to test all residents and screen and monitor for symptoms regularly. Staff are tested twice each week and are also paying close attention to 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.

Per the Tacoma-Pierce County Health Department, the following steps will need to continue to be in place for the next two weeks:

**Activities and Visitors**

A “No Visitors” rule will be put in place for the next two weeks, except for compassionate care visits. Our Activity Department will be providing many 1:1 activities and individual opportunities. If you would like more information on scheduling a time to virtually visit with your loved one, please feel free to contact Terry Nisbet at 360 893-4511 or 253-310-1441.

**Dietary**

Our meal service has been restructured with our residents receiving and eating meals in their rooms. Ancillary staff have been tasked to help assure that the meal trays are delivered timely.

## **Facility Maintenance**

Our Housekeeping, Maintenance and Laundry departments have also stepped up in assuring that our facility, equipment and linen are kept clean and sanitized. Our housekeeping team provides continuous disinfections of all of the most commonly touched surfaces within the building along with the daily cleaning, sanitation, and repair routines that they provide.

## **VACCINE INFORMATION**

As a part of our continued efforts to curb the spread of the COVID-19 virus, our home is hosting vaccination clinics 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.

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', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Robert Pence, Administrator