



STATE OF WASHINGTON
DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS

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

January 5, 2022

Dear Soldiers Home Residents, Family and Representatives,

We have received confirmation through more surveillance testing that five more staff members have been diagnosed with COVID-19. We have also tested all residents and one resident has been diagnosed with COVID-19. Since December 27, 2021, ten staff and one resident have been diagnosed with COVID-19. We will continue to do more surveillance testing and test all residents again next week.

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

Staff continue to be tested twice a 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. If any symptoms are present staff are tested again to rule out COVID-19.

Following the guidance from The Department of Health we are currently in outbreak status and have implemented the following interventions:

- In-person visits will not be allowed except for compassionate care visits. 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.
- The dining room will be closed, and residents will be having in room dining.
- Group activities will also need to be put on hold. However, our Activity Department will be providing many 1:1 activities and individual opportunities.

These interventions will be in place for approximately two weeks if we do not receive any additional resident or staff positive test results.

VACCINE INFORMATION

As a part of our continued efforts to curb the spread of the COVID-19 virus, we continue to offer vaccination boosters to staff and residents who wish to receive the vaccine booster. We encourage all residents, staff, and community members who are able and eligible to be vaccinated to consider getting vaccinated for COVID-19 and if vaccinated consider getting the booster.

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