



**STATE OF WASHINGTON
DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS**

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

January 21, 2022

Dear Veterans Home Residents, Family and Representatives,

Today's letter has two messages regarding changes in our leadership as well as an update in our COVID-19 status.

WVH Leadership Change:

Today, I'm writing to share a leadership change at the Washington Veterans Home. William McElya has made the decision to move on from the Washington Veterans Home and his last day will be January 21, 2022. I would like to thank William for his service to our Team and wish him the best in his future endeavors.

I am also pleased to announce Pam Cokash has been appointed Administrator of Washington Veteran Home beginning on February 16, 2022. Pam comes to us with a tremendous amount of experience in working with Nursing Homes, as well as Assisted Living, Independent Living and Memory Care. Pam's record of successfully operating nursing homes through revitalizing employee culture, building trusted relationships with residents, staff, and community leaders, and assessing facility strengths and weaknesses will bring a stabilizing force to our Home. For the first several weeks Pam, will be in training, both in and out of the Home, and plans to be fully integrated in March.

During the transition, Dan Murray, Homes Operations Director and Linda Fairbank, Clinical Compliance Director will support the Washington Veteran Home. If you have questions or concerns, you can reach Dan by calling (360) 725-2153 or emailing dan.murray@dva.wa.gov.

WVH COVID-19 Information:

We have confirmed three additional staff members have been diagnosed with COVID-19. Residents on the affected units are tested regularly and have remained negative. We attribute this to our increased diligence in staff testing as well as our stringent screening process.

We are working closely with the Kitsap Public Health District and following guidance from them, the 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.

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.

Other Updates:

Activities and Visitors

We are following guidance from the Kitsap Public Health District and are suspending indoor visits except for Compassionate Care and Essential Support Personnel. Due to the rising number of cases, we would highly discourage any visitations other than end of life at this time. If you would like more information on scheduling a time to virtually visit with your loved one, please feel free to contact Tami Reuter at 360-895-4376.

Facility Maintenance

Our Housekeeping, Maintenance and Laundry departments are also working hard throughout our facility, ensuring equipment and linen are kept clean and sanitized. Our housekeeping team provides continuous disinfections of all the most commonly touched surfaces within the building along with the daily cleaning, sanitation, and repair routines that they provide. For family members who assist their loved ones with their laundry, pickup days will be Wednesdays.

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>. Thank you trusting us with providing care to your loved one.

Please feel free to contact us at 360-895-4700 with any questions or concerns.

Signed,

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