



STATE OF WASHINGTON
DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS
Washington Soldiers Home, 1301 Orting Kapowsin Hwy E • Orting, Washington 98360
Serving Those Who Served

February 1, 2022

Dear Soldiers Home Residents, Family and Representatives,

I am pleased to notify everyone that as of this morning all our resident Covid-19 test results have come back negative. However, we are still on outbreak status and must continue the current interventions and follow the guidance from the Department of Health.

- In-person visits will not be allowed except for Essential Support Person and 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.
- Essential Support Persons (ESP) assist during times when limitations are placed on visitation due to a public health emergency or other threats to the health and safety of residents and staff. Residents or Resident Representatives may designate one person as a Resident's ESP. More information on ESPs can be found in the Safe Start for Long Term Care plan at:
<https://www.dshs.wa.gov/sites/default/files/ALISA/rcs/documents/covid-19/NH%20ICF%20IID%20Safe%20Start%20CDC%20Guidance.pdf>. If you don't know who your ESP is or need more information about ESPs at the Soldiers Home, please contact Suzette Hollowell (360) 893-4564.
- 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.

Through our proactive testing of staff we have identified two additional staff who have been diagnosed with COVID-19. Since 12/27/2021, twenty-nine staff members have been diagnosed with COVID-19 twenty-three of which have recovered and returned to work.

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

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