



STATE OF WASHINGTON

DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS

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

Sewing Those Who Sewed

May 17, 2022

Dear Soldiers Home Residents, Family and Representatives,

I am happy to report that we have not had any new positive test results for our residents. However, we did have three staff members test positive for COVID-19. As of May 17, 2022, we have a total of sixteen residents and ten staff members diagnosed with COVID-19. Of those residents and staff diagnosed so far with COVID-19, all residents have completely recovered and all but the three staff members have returned to work.

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. We are monitoring residents closely for any symptoms and testing as needed. Proactive surveillance testing of all residents will occur again this week per the guidance of our local health jurisdiction.

The following interventions continue to be in place, however, if our resident surveillance testing results are all negative this may change per the guidance of our local health jurisdiction:

- In-person visits will be limited to only essential support person or comfort care visits. We do ask that you only visit with the person you are here to visit and stay in the resident room or outside of the nursing building while visiting during this time to limit any possible exposure.
- The dining room will be closed, and residents will have in room dining.
- Group activities will be on hold. However, our Activity Department will be providing many 1:1 activities and individual opportunities.

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 some stylized flourishes.

Robert Pence, Administrator