



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

May 4, 2022

Dear Soldiers Home Residents, Family and Representatives,

We received our results of this week's COVID-19 surveillance testing on all our residents. We did identify eight new positive cases. We have also had 4 additional staff members diagnosed with COVID-19. As of May 4, 2022, we have a total of sixteen residents and seven staff members diagnosed with COVID-19. Of those residents and staff diagnosed so far with COVID-19, two residents have completely recovered and two staff are 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 next Tuesday per the guidance of our local health jurisdiction.

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

- 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 a stylized flourish at the end.

Robert Pence, Administrator