



STATE OF WASHINGTON

DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS

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

Sewing Those Who Served

June 10, 2022

Dear Soldiers Home Residents, Family and Representatives,

We are sending this letter to ensure you have the latest information regarding the finding of COVID-19 in our facility. This week we conducted surveillance testing, and all resident tests were negative. We do have one positive staff member at this time. According to our local health jurisdiction this will not affect our timeline for the current outbreak. So, as of June 10, 2022, we have a total of one resident and sixteen staff members that have been diagnosed with COVID-19.

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.

Please see below for some upcoming changes to our current interventions per the guidance of our local health jurisdiction. This will occur as of Monday the 13th and will continue through our outbreak and monitoring status if we do not receive any COVID-19 positive results:

- In-person visits are allowed but we do ask that you wear a mask in common areas, only visit with the person you are here to visit and stay in the resident room or outside of the nursing building while visiting to limit any possible exposure.
- The dining room and group activities will resume.

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 several horizontal strokes above it.

Robert Pence, Administrator