



STATE OF WASHINGTON

DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS

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

*Serving Those Who Served*

June 24, 2022

Dear Soldiers Home Residents, Family and Representatives,

Unfortunately, I have to report that this week as part of our surveillance testing, we have identified two positive residents and three positive staff members. According to our local health jurisdiction we continue in outbreak status and no changes to our current recommendations for the affected part of the facility. So, as of June 17, 2022, we have a total of four residents and twenty-two 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 our current interventions per the guidance of our local health jurisdiction:

- 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.
- Dining Room and Group activities will continue for residents at station one, however, residents at station two will be having in room dining and are discouraged from group activities and leaving the unit until resolved.

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