



STATE OF WASHINGTON
DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS
Washington Soldiers Home and Colony

September 13, 2023

Dear Residents, Families, and Resident Representatives,

This letter is being sent to provide you with up-to-date information on the COVID-19 status in our Home, and meet the notification requirements of CMS and L&I.

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.

Currently we have 1 resident who has tested positive for Covid. Our positive Covid resident did not acquire Covid within the facility it does not put us in Outbreak status, and we will be taking the follow precautions for the next 10 days:

1. Extra cleaning will be performed down the unit.
2. Staff will monitor residents for signs and symptoms of COVID and test any resident with symptoms on days 1,3 and 5.
3. Staff working with the positive resident will be tested on days 1, 3, and 5 and will monitor themselves for s/sx of COVID.

Modifications/Guidelines to Visitation, Group Activities, and Dining Rooms:

- 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.
- Group activities are not currently affected.
- We will continue to monitor and test residents according to the guidance from our local health jurisdiction.
- For the safety of the visitor, in general, residents/patients are encouraged to limit in-person visitation while they are infectious. There is a risk that you contract COVID-19. While visiting only visit the resident/patient room. Minimize time spent in other locations in the facility.

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.

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 "DPS" followed by a stylized flourish and the letters "NHA".

Daniel Smith, Administrator