



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

October 16, 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.

**As of 10/06/2023 we have been in Outbreak Status for COVID-19. We have 1 additional resident and 2 additional staff members who have tested positive for Covid. For this Outbreak our total number of residents who have tested positive is 26 and the total number of staff members who have tested positive is 20. Our positive Covid residents have been placed in precautions to help minimize the spread. Our positive staff members are asked to remain home for 7-10 days and are 24 hours since their symptoms have subsided.**

1. Extra cleaning will be performed down the unit.
2. Staff will monitor residents for signs and symptoms of COVID, surveillance testing of all residents will be conducted on days 1,3 and 5.
3. Staff working with the positive residents 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:**

- Staff are wearing N95 masks and eye protection within the facility.
- 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 cancelled.
- 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 as there is a risk that you may contract COVID-19 While visiting only visit the resident/patient room.

#### 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 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 "DPSL NHA". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the letters "DPSL" being larger and more prominent than "NHA".

Daniel Smith, Administrator