



STATE OF WASHINGTON
DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS
Washington Soldiers Home

January 08, 2024

Dear Residents, Families, and Resident Representatives,

This letter is being sent to provide you with up-to-date information on the status in our Home and meet the notification requirements. Currently, we are in **Influenza** and **COVID** outbreaks.

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 01/08/2024 we have had 4 residents test positive for Influenza and 3 staff members test positive for Covid. No residents have tested positive for COVID. Our positive Influenza residents have been placed in precautions to help minimize the spread. Our COVID positive staff members are asked to remain home for at least 7days and are 24 hours since their symptoms have subsided.

1. Extra cleaning will be performed facility wide.
2. Staff will monitor residents and for signs and symptoms of Influenza, surveillance testing of all exposed residents will be conducted on days 1,3, 5,7,9,11, and 13.
3. Staff working with the Influenza positive residents will monitor themselves for signs and symptoms.

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

- Staff are wearing N95 masks 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 Influenza or COVID-19 while visiting only visit the resident/patient room.

VACCINE INFORMATION

We offer annual Influenza Vaccines to residents and staff. And, as part of our continued efforts to curb the spread of the COVID-19 virus, we 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 Influenza and COVID-19. And those vaccinated for Covid-19 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 'D P Smith', followed by three small, stylized marks.

Daniel P. Smith
Nursing Home Administrator
Washington Soldiers Home
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