



STATE OF WASHINGTON
DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS

Washington Soldiers Home – 1301 Orting Kapowsin Hwy E, Orting, WA 98360

November 30, 2020

Dear Washington Soldiers Home Family or Representative,

Today, as part of our weekly staff testing, one of our Soldiers Home team members tested positive for COVID-19 using the Point of Care Rapid Test. Because of the high rate of false positives when using these machines, the employee was retested using a PCR test, which was sent to a local lab to confirm whether they are in-fact positive. The employee is self-quarantined and will not return to work until the test results are received.

We are proceeding with the regular precautions we take with any positive staff or resident and are working with Tacoma-Pierce County Health Department to determine next steps with regard to additional measures and proactive testing. We also are following guidance from CDC, CMS and our State Department of Health to ensure we are safeguarding our residents and staff.

Additional environmental cleaning took place in areas that the staff member worked and the Soldiers Home will conduct enhanced surveillance, including 4-hour symptom and temperature checks, for affected residents for the next 14 days.

We are asking our staff to pay 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 will take their temperature at least twice a day and are also asked to report any symptoms that occur after coming to work.

The Soldiers Home, is following guidance from the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Service, which requires regular testing of all long-term care facility staff. This may result in the identification of asymptomatic carriers, but is an important tool in defending against COVID-19.

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,

Robert Pence
WSH Administrator