



STATE OF WASHINGTON
DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS

Washington Veterans Home • 1141 Beach Drive E • Port Orchard, Washington 98366 • (360) 895-4700

December 21, 2020

Dear Washington Veterans Home Residents, Family and Representatives,

Over the weekend, additional test results were received indicating that two additional staff members have been diagnosed with COVID-19. The staff members are self-isolating and are asymptomatic.

We are working closely with the Kitsap Public Health District and following guidance from the CDC, CMS and our State Department of Health to ensure we are taking every possible precaution.

All residents at the Veterans Home will be retested every 5-7 days until 14 days have passed without a positive test result. Additional environmental cleaning continues to take place and we will conduct enhanced surveillance, including 4 - hour symptom and temperature checks, for residents for the next 14 days.

We continue to ask 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 are asked to report any symptoms that occur after coming to work.

The Veterans Home, is following guidance from the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services, which requires regular testing of all long-term care facility staff. Currently the rate of positivity in Kitsap County requires staff to be tested once each week. This may result in the identification of asymptomatic carriers, but is an important tool in defending against COVID-19.

VACCINE UPDATE:

With news of the COVID-19 vaccine being shipped and administered to health care providers and long-term care facility residents, we also want to provide an update on how the Washington State Veterans Homes are participating in the vaccine process.

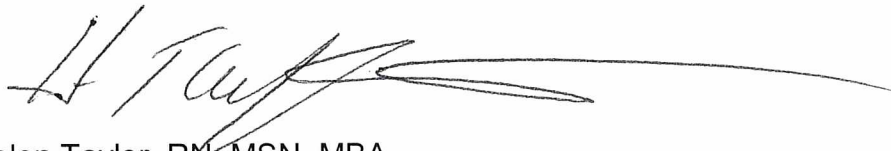
The WDVA Veterans Homes Program has registered for the Operation Warp Speed Pharmacy Partnership Program. Through this program, residents and staff will receive one of the vaccine series authorized for administration through Walgreens. Our partners at Walgreens will set up a vaccine clinic in our Homes where both residents and staff, who have signed consents, will be vaccinated.

At this time, we do not have details regarding the dates of immunization or the specific product that will be administered; however, as soon as we have details from our Walgreens representatives, we will share this information.

More information on Operation Warp Speed is available at: <https://www.hhs.gov/coronavirus/explaining-operation-warp-speed/index.html>

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>.

Signed,



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"Serving Those Who Served"