



STATE OF WASHINGTON

DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS

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

December 23, 2020

Dear Washington Veterans Home Residents, Family and Representatives,

In our December 21, 2020 letter we provided information on the COVID-19 vaccine.

We are pleased to report that we will begin vaccinating residents and staff on December 30, 2020.

We do not know when we our residents or staff will have another opportunity to take this vaccine. This opportunity is provided now because we are in Phase 1a of the WA State Vaccine Distribution Plan. We hope to have a second clinic, but at this time, this is our only scheduled clinic for the first dose of the COVID-19 vaccine. If a resident or staff person declines the vaccine as part of the Phase 1a distribution, it could be several months before it is available again.

One of the requirements to receive the vaccine is a consent form. If you are a family member or representative that holds POA for your resident you should have received a consent form. If your resident is unable to self-consent, please fill name field, section B2, sign and return this to us ASAP! If you need a new copy, it can be found online at: <https://www.dva.wa.gov/sites/default/files/2020-12/Walgreens%20COVID-19%20LTCF%20VAR%2012.08.2020.pdf>

We will be receiving the Pfizer vaccine which is given in two steps, 21 days apart. The only contraindication to the vaccine is relative and includes a history of severe reaction to another vaccine. Side effects tend to be mild and include arm pain, a warm lump at the vaccine site, achiness and fatigue. Some people get a temporary low grade fever. Side effects tend to be most common in the week following the second injection. If a person gets side effects, it does not mean that something is wrong, it only means that the vaccine is doing its job and your body is mounting an effective immune response.

This vaccine has been shown to be over 95% effective at preventing COVID-19 infection in those studied. This has included 77,000 people in the country so far with a very low rate of severe side effects.

You can learn more about the COVID-19 vaccine at:

- [Vaccine Information :: Washington State Department of Health](#)
- [Washington State Vaccine Distribution Plan](#)
- [COVID-19 Vaccination | CDC](#)

Here are three important facts about the vaccine and how it works that the Department of Health wants you to know:

- The vaccine helps get your immune system activated so if you are exposed to the virus, your body is prepared.
- The vaccine helps your body make a plan to fight off the virus. After the vaccine, your body begins to make antibodies that will stay in your blood as protection in case the virus tries to invade. This allows your body to fight off the virus without you having to get sick first.
- When enough people have enough antibodies to fight off the virus, it has nowhere to go. For WA that means that if 70% of our population is vaccinated, we will be on the winning side of this pandemic and the spread will be contained.

We wish you Happy Holidays and want to thank you for your continued support! If you have questions regarding the vaccine clinic, please contact our Administrative office at 360-895-4700 which they will send your questions to the appropriate staff.

Signed,

*William McElya*

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