



STATE OF WASHINGTON

DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS

Washington Soldiers Home, 1301 Orting Kapowsin Hwy E • Orting, Washington 98360

Serving Those Who Served

January 04, 2021

Dear WSH Resident, Family and Resident Representatives:

It is with profound sadness that we share the loss of two of our own Washington Soldiers Home Residents, on January 2 and January 3, 2021. These Veterans were diagnosed with COVID-19 and sadly passed away, either from the effects of COVID-19 or due to other medical conditions that were present prior to the COVID-19 diagnosis. We offer our condolences to their families and we share their sense of loss of these brave heroes. It is never easy to say goodbye to our Soldiers Home family members, but it is even harder under these circumstances.

As our facility-wide testing continues, four additional residents and three additional staff have been diagnosed with COVID-19. We continue to closely monitor all residents and to isolate the COVID-19 positive residents. Staff who are diagnosed are self-isolating at home. In addition, we are in close contact with the Department of Health Infection Preventionist as well as the Tacoma-Pierce County Health District to determine whether there are additional steps we can take to prevent further spread of the virus.

We want to take a moment to thank our residents, families and our entire WSH Team for your support and understanding during these incredibly difficult times. Please know that our team is working around the clock to provide the best care and ensure the Home is cleaned and sanitized allowing us to continue providing the safe and compassionate care each resident so richly deserves.

Staff will continue to monitor 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 Soldiers 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 Pierce 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.

CONTACT INFORMATION:

If you would prefer to receive these messages more quickly via email, please provide your email address to romyr@dva.wa.gov or call 360-893-4501.

VACCINE INFORMATION:

The WDVA Veterans Homes Program has registered for the Operation Warp Speed Pharmacy Partnership Program. Through this program, the residents and staff will receive one of the vaccine series authorized for administration.

As a reminder, our vaccine clinic is set for January 7. If you are a resident POA, please ensure we have received your signed consent as soon as possible as vaccinations must be ordered 24 hours in advance of the vaccine clinic. 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%20LTFCF%20VAR%2012.08.2020.pdf>

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, Administrator