



STATE OF WASHINGTON

DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS

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

Serving Those Who Served

January 12, 2021

Dear WSH Resident, Family and Resident Representatives:

In our continued effort to share information with you, we are sad to share the loss of two more of our Soldiers Home residents following their diagnosis with COVID-19. We offer our condolences to their family as they go through this difficult time. We know that it's hard for you to continue hearing such heartbreaking news; however, we are committed to being transparent and openly sharing the status of our Home.

Additionally, I am happy to report that since our last communication we have not had any new residents diagnosed with COVID-19. We have had a total of 16 residents recover completely from their illnesses. We continue to work closely with the Department of Health Infection Preventionist as well as the Tacoma-Pierce County Health District. We continue to monitor all our residents closely with symptom checks and weekly testing. Weekly testing is being done today and we will update you later in the week if we have any further changes.

Staff are also being tested weekly and since our last communication we did have one additional staff member test positive. Staff 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.

VACCINE INFORMATION:

Our first vaccination clinic was scheduled on January 7th and we were able to vaccinate a total of 140 staff and residents. Our next vaccination clinic will take place on February 2nd for those that need the second dose of the series, and for those that were not able to receive their first dose during the first vaccination clinic.

For all those that still need the first dose and for those that will receive a second dose we will need a signed consent form. 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. We have enclosed a copy with a self-addressed stamped envelope for your

convenience. For those receiving this letter via e-mail you can use the electronic form found at the below web address:

<https://www.dva.wa.gov/sites/default/files/2020-12/Walgreens%20COVID-19%20LTCF%20VAR%2012.08.2020.pdf>

You may return the form by mail or electronically using the below contacts:

- Secure fax to: 360-893-4591
- Take a clear photo and text to: 253-278-0837
- Scan and email to: Tena.Chevalier@DVA.WA.GOV

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>.

If you have any questions regarding the vaccination please call Tena Chevalier, Director of Nursing at 360-893-4529.

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.

Sincerely



Robert Pence, Administrator