



STATE OF WASHINGTON

DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS

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

January 19, 2021

Dear Washington Veterans Home Residents, Family and Representatives,

We are writing to provide an update on our COVID-19 testing and results, over the weekend, one resident was diagnosed with COVID-19. The resident is isolated and staff are monitoring them closely to ensure they receive the care they need.

As we have previously reported, all residents in the affected areas will be tested and retested every 5-7 days until 14 days have passed without a new resident positive. Additional environmental cleaning continues to take place and the Washington Veterans Home will conduct enhanced surveillance, including 4-hour symptom and temperature checks, for residents in the affected areas for the next 14 days.

We are working with the Kitsap Public Health District and following guidance from CDC, CMS and our State Department of Health to ensure we are safeguarding our residents and staff.

Staff continue 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 Information for 2<sup>nd</sup> Vaccine Clinic:

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.

Our second clinic is set for January 20. Residents and staff who received a first vaccine shot on December 30 will receive their second shot on this day. Residents and staff who would like to receive the COVID-19 Vaccine may also get their first shot on January 20. 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. A second consent is needed for the second shot. 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>

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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