



STATE OF WASHINGTON

DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS

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

Serving Those Who Served

February 25, 2021

Dear WSH Resident, Family and Resident Representatives:

In our continued effort to keep you informed, I wanted to provide you with our current status. Officially, we have not had any positive staff or residents for twenty-eight days and have been cleared of our outbreak status by the Department of Health. This has been trying times for us all. We have fought this virus for almost a year, many of us have lost loved ones, friends and family and we still have a long way to go! I want to thank you for your caring support and perseverance through these troubling times.

However, as we continue to fight the virus, many interventions still need to remain in place:

Staff and Resident Screening and Testing

All our staff continue to be screened every shift using standard screening questions and temperature checks. A secondary screening process allows our clinical staff to assist with decisions on whether to allow employees and/or other essential service providers to continue onto their appointed shift based on CDC and Department of Health Guidance using a well-defined decision tree. It also gives our clinical team a chance to answer any questions employees may have on the decision and steps they might want to take. Residents also continue to be screened and monitored for symptoms regularly.

Staff are tested weekly and as needed per state and county guidelines. Residents are no longer required to test weekly, but may be tested as clinically indicated.

Personal Protective Equipment (PPE)

Staff are still required to wear a facial mask and goggles within resident areas and maintain social distance as able throughout their shift. Additional PPE requirements may be used as clinically indicated.

Residents are asked to wear a mask when out of their rooms and maintain social distance as much as possible as well.

Activities and Visitors

We remain a closed campus and visits **must** be scheduled through our visiting booth or virtually.

Our Activity Department is scheduling virtual visits to provide residents and family an opportunity to connect via the internet. They are also providing many 1:1 activities and individual opportunities and may now start having some small group activities. If you would like more information on scheduling time to virtually visit with your loved one, please feel free to contact Terry Nisbet at 360 893-4511 or 253-310-1441.

We are also starting to schedule booth visits once more. Resident health and safety remains our primary concern. Visits will occur under limited and controlled conditions, coordinated by the facility. There will be strict visitation rules using guidance from the Governor's Office, Department of Social and Health

Services, and Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services. The visiting station will not allow for any direct contact between visitors and residents. Visitors must adhere to social distancing and wear masks at all times while on the campus. All visitors will also pass through a screening station where temperature checks, wellness questionnaire, and hand sanitizing will take place.

Visits will be scheduled starting on March 1st, 2021. Family members will be able to schedule visits, with a maximum of 2 family members per visit, visitors must also be at least 2 years old. Visits will be 30 minutes in length and located outside in the gazebo at the center of campus. Weekly visits will be scheduled on Monday, Wednesday and Friday at 10:30am, 1:30pm and 3:30pm. If you would like to schedule a visit with your loved one; need special accommodations for a weekend visit or have questions, please contact Suzette Hollowell, Social Services at 360-893-4564.

Deliveries

As we remain a closed campus, we want to allow for some things to be dropped off or picked up for our residents. To support with this process, we are asking you to drop off non-perishable items, gifts and laundry as applicable at the security check point between 10:30am and noon, then again 3:30pm and 5:00pm. These will be delivered to the residents twice a day at noon for the morning drop offs and then at 5:00pm for the afternoon drop offs. Please make sure the items are clearly labeled with the resident name and room number.

Dietary

At this time our residents are still having all of their meals in their rooms. We are exploring a modified dining process to allow for some of our residents to eat in the dining hall. Part of this process means wearing a mask when not eating, limiting the number of residents in the dining room at one time and providing social distancing. We hope to have this modified process in place by the end of next month.

Again, I want to thank you and let you know that our staff are doing an outstanding job of adapting and moving forward. I could not be prouder of the staff or more honored to serve our residents.

Sincerely



Robert Pence, Administrator

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.