



STATE OF WASHINGTON
DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS

Washington Soldiers Home • 1301 Orting Kapowsin Hwy E • Orting, Washington 98360
Sewing Those Who Sewed

October 28, 2020

Dear Resident, Resident Family or Resident Representative:

First, I'd like to say thank you! Thank you for your understanding and most of all your patience as we work together to keep everyone associated with our Home safe and healthy. We know that this is a marathon, not a sprint, and we're in this together for the long-haul. Your words of kindness and appreciation are truly inspirational and help keep our entire Team's spirits up!

The holidays are approaching and families may be contemplating whether bringing their loved-one home for a day or weekend might be possible. Unfortunately, the stark reality is that being in a car, living room, or dining room with family and friends increases the risk of a resident being exposed to an asymptomatic carrier of COVID-19. We know that no one would do this on purpose, but the risk is real and the consequences of a decision to leave for a few hours could have life changing impacts to everyone in the Washington Soldiers Home. For these reasons, if a resident chooses to leave the facility during the holidays, they will be placed on a 14-day mandatory quarantine upon their return. During the quarantine period, they will not be permitted to leave their room and will be cared for by staff in full PPE including; gown, gloves, procedure mask, eye protection/face shield.

Since the declaration of the COVID-19 Pandemic, our collective efforts have focused on keeping this terrible virus out of our Home. I am very concerned that visits outside the Home over the holidays have the potential to un-do everything we've achieved so far. If you were planning a visit outside the Home over the holidays, we ask you to please reconsider. Our Activities Teams will work with you to ensure we can accommodate as many virtual visits as possible. In addition, we are waiting for guidance from the Governors Safe Start Plan regarding indoor visits. Once that is received, we will modify our visiting cubes to fit indoor locations that meet these requirements and be back in touch with you to schedule indoor in-person visits.

The Washington Soldiers Home will continue all of our proactive measures meant to keep our Home safe for the holidays. In addition, our staff members continue to be tested for COVID-19 on either a weekly or monthly basis, depending on transmission rates in our County. I assure you that we are asking our own staff to be safe and only gather with their household members over the holidays as well. We all have difficult choices ahead of us and I am confident that by sticking together we will have opportunities to make Holiday memories that keep everyone happy and healthy.

If you have any questions or concerns, please feel free to contact me directly.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Robert Pence', with several overlapping strokes.

Robert Pence, Administrator
360-819-3323
WA Soldiers Home