



STATE OF WASHINGTON

DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS

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

January 22, 2021

Dear Washington Veterans Home Residents, Family and Representatives,

We are writing to provide an update on our COVID-19 testing and results. Today, we received confirmation of 4 positive residents and 1 staff member COVID-19 test results that are all asymptomatic. Although 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, we are also currently isolating and working to temporarily discharge these residents to an alternative COVID-19 facility.

As we have previously reported, 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.

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:

Yesterday, we conducted our 2nd Vaccine Clinic through the Operation Warp Speed Pharmacy Partnership Program. Approximately 491 vaccines were administered to residents and staff members. This included 2nd doses for many individuals as well as

1st doses for those who missed the first clinic. We will have one final Vaccine Clinic February 10, 2021 to provide only 2nd doses to those who need them. If you are a resident POA and they received their first shot during the January 20th clinic, we will need a second consent form prior to the next vaccine clinic date. 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,

Helen Taylor, RN, MSN, MBA
Director of Nursing
Washington Department of Veteran Affairs

