



STATE OF WASHINGTON  
DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS  
*Washington Soldiers Home, 1301 Orting Kapowsin Hwy E • Orting, Washington 98360*  
*Sewing Those Who Sewed*

March 24, 2020

Dear Washington Soldiers Home Family or Representative,

We are sending this letter in our continuing effort to keep you informed of how our Homes are modifying services during the COVID-19 crisis.

As of today, we have no cases of COVID-19 in any of our Veterans Homes. Our priority remains keeping our residents, our staff, and you safe and healthy. The changes we've had to make to do this have been hard on everyone, especially our residents and you their family and friends.

Testing Update as of March 24 at 8:40am:

**RESIDENTS**

Residents with a ***positive*** COVID-19 test:

- WA Veterans Home in Port Orchard: 0
- WA Soldiers Home in Orting: 0
- Spokane Veterans Home: 0
- Walla Walla Veterans Home: 0

Residents with a ***negative*** COVID-19 test:

- WA Veterans Home in Port Orchard: 4
- WA Soldiers Home in Orting: 1
- Spokane Veterans Home: 3
- Walla Walla Veterans Home: 0

Total number of residents **tested**:

- WA Veterans Home in Port Orchard: 5
- WA Soldiers Home in Orting: 1
- Spokane Veterans Home: 6
- Walla Walla Veterans Home: 1

**STAFF**

Staff with a ***positive*** COVID-19 test:

- WA Veterans Home in Port Orchard: 0
- WA Soldiers Home in Orting: 0
- Spokane Veterans Home: 0
- Walla Walla Veterans Home: 0

Staff with a ***negative*** COVID-19 test:

- WA Veterans Home in Port Orchard: 2

- WA Soldiers Home in Orting: 0
- Spokane Veterans Home: 1
- Walla Walla Veterans Home: 0

Total number of staff **tested**:

- WA Veterans Home in Port Orchard: 5
- WA Soldiers Home in Orting: 3
- Spokane Veterans Home: 2
- Walla Walla Veterans Home: 1

This information is updated frequently on our website at [www.dva.wa.gov/covid](http://www.dva.wa.gov/covid).

Also included with this letter is a list of frequently asked questions regarding visitors, COVID-19 testing, and other topics.

Staff in our homes are doing the very best they can to keep residents active and engaged by offering new in-room or appropriately socially-distanced activities in the Homes. They are also working hard to schedule and assist with virtual visits using technology. We ask for your patience as we continue to learn some of this new technology along with you and our residents! We might not get it right the first few times, but over time, we will all get better at this!

Here are some of the things our Activities and Social Work staff are doing to work with residents and provide emotional support:

- Modifications to many programs to be suitable for 1:1 visits.
- Distribution of supplies for use during residents' free time.
- Music programs using I-Pods, resident radio/stereos & TVs.
- Cards and word puzzles are being distributed.
- Mobile exercise equipment that can be sterilized between resident visits is being used.
- Computer class is implemented on an individual basis.
- Craft kits and other arts & crafts supplies are being distributed.
- Newspaper articles are being copied and distributed.
- Trivia questions are also distributed.
- Bus drivers are assisting with personal shopping for resident's personal snacks and beverages.
- Reminiscing is provided using residents' personal belongings, as well as supplies that can be mobilized.

While you've probably seen some very heartwarming stories about residents 'visiting' through the windows with their family members, now that we are under a Stay Home, Stay Healthy order from Governor Inslee, we ask that you please follow this order. We will only prevent the spread of COVID-19 if we all do our part to limit the opportunity for the virus to spread, which includes staying home unless travel is essential.

I want to thank you for your cooperation and understanding through all of the changes that are taking place. Our staff are working hard to keep your loved one safe and I can't tell you how much we appreciate their work. We will continue to update the WDVA Website with messages

like this as well as updates on COVID-19 tests performed and their outcomes.  
[www.dva.wa.gov/covid](http://www.dva.wa.gov/covid).

If you have questions, please contact us at 360-893-4515 or email me at RobertP@dva.wa.gov.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Robert Pence", with several horizontal strokes extending to the left.

Robert Pence, Administrator  
Washington Soldiers Home  
Department of Veterans Affairs