



STATE OF WASHINGTON

DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS

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

*Serving Those Who Served*

December 16, 2020

Dear Soldiers Home Residents, Families and Representatives:

Today we are writing to provide updates on resident and staff COVID-19 test results.

We have received a positive COVID-19 lab result for one of our Soldiers Home residents. The resident is being monitored closely. Our team has placed the resident on isolation and they are wearing appropriate PPE and using all appropriate precautions.

One staff member has also been diagnosed with COVID-19 through a PCR lab test.

All residents at the Soldiers Home will be tested and then retested each week for the next 14 days. Additional environmental cleaning continues to take place and we will conduct enhanced surveillance, including 4-hour symptom and temperature checks, for residents for the next 14 days.

We are working with the Tacoma Pierce County Health Department to determine next steps with regard to additional measures. We also are following guidance from CDC, CMS and our State Department of Health to ensure we are safeguarding our residents and staff.

We are asking our staff 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 Soldiers 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 Pierce

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.

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>.

Sincerely

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

Robert Pence, Administrator