



STATE OF WASHINGTON
DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS

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

December 4, 2020

Dear Washington Veterans Home Residents, Family and Representatives,

Today we learned that one of our Veterans Home Team Members has been diagnosed with COVID-19. The employee is self-isolating and recovering at home. The staff member did not work in the skilled nursing building.

Other staff that may have had close contact have been tested and their test results are negative. Additional environmental cleaning took place in areas that the staff member worked. We will continue to monitor all residents for symptoms each shift.

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 will take their temperature at least twice a day and are also asked to report any symptoms that occur after coming to work.

The Washington Veterans Home, is working closely with the Kitsap Public Health District and following guidance from the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Service, which requires regular testing of all long-term care facility staff. 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>.

Signed,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "William McElya".

William McElya, BSNS MBA LNHA

Administrator U.S. Army
Washington Veterans Home
Department of Veterans Affairs



"Serving Those Who Served"