

# Washington State Department of Veterans Affairs News Release



January 4, 2021

**Port Orchard:** As a result of our all-facility COVID-19 testing, we have identified an additional resident and staff member who have been diagnosed with COVID-19.

All residents at the Veterans Home will be retested every 5-7 days until 14 days have passed without a new positive resident and staff. 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 continue working with the Kitsap Public Health District 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.

Staff will continue to monitor 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.

The Veterans Home's second vaccine clinic is currently scheduled for January 20, 2021. Residents and staff who received a first vaccine on December 30 will receive their second dose on this day. In addition, residents and staff may also receive a first vaccination on this day.

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>.

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