# Washington State Department of Veterans Affairs News Release

**December 4, 2020**

**Port Orchard:** Today we received confirmation that one of our employees at the Washington Veterans Home was diagnosed with COVID-19. This employee works outside of the skilled nursing facility and is now self-isolated at home.

We want to reassure residents, staff and family members that we are working closely with the Kitsap Public Health District and following guidance from the CDC, CMS and our State Department of Health to ensure we are taking every possible precaution.

Based on positive rates in Kitsap County, staff will continue to be proactively tested each month.

Additional environmental cleaning took place in areas that the staff member worked and the Washington Veterans Home continues to conduct symptom checks for all residents on 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.

We are notifying residents, staff and family representatives via email or letter and a post to the website. We have informed employees of their possible exposure in the workplace but we will maintain confidentiality as required by the Americans with Disabilities Act.

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  Media inquiries should be addressed to heidia@dva.wa.gov.

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