



News Release

Executive Office of Health and Human Services

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For Immediate Release

Statement from the Health and Human Services Deputy Secretary on Holyoke Soldiers' Home

BOSTON (March 30, 2020) – It is imperative that the Holyoke Soldiers' Home provide a safe environment for the veteran residents, and the dedicated staff who serve them.

Superintendent Bennett Walsh has been placed on paid administrative leave effective immediately. Val Liptak, RN, currently the CEO of Western Massachusetts Hospital, will assume responsibility for the administration of the Soldiers' Home, effective 4:45 pm today. We have also implemented an onsite clinical command team comprised of medical, epidemiological, and operational experts responsible for the comprehensive and rapid response to the outbreak of COVID-19. All of these enhancements will build upon the existing protocols and work that align with Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, Department of Veterans Affairs, and Massachusetts Department of Public Health guidance. Today's actions underscore the state's commitment to our veterans and front-line health care employees during this unprecedented public health crisis.

---Deputy Secretary for Health and Human Services Dan Tsai