

Missouri Veterans Commission releases full 415-page independent investigation report on Veterans Homes' COVID-19 response

JEFFERSON CITY — On the behalf of the commission of the Missouri Veterans Commission, chairman Timothy Noonan December 31st released the full 415-page independent, external investigation report into the Missouri Veterans Commission's response to COVID-19. The investigation, ordered by Governor Mike Parson and conducted by Armstrong Teasdale, examined the COVID-19 response in all seven Veterans Homes and by MVC headquarters.

"COVID-19 has presented unprecedented challenges to every long-term care facility in the nation and the external investigation report provides a valuable, unvarnished, independent review of the Missouri Veterans Commission's response to the pandemic," chairman Noonan said. "Up and down the chain of command, we have a duty to the Veterans, their families and the frontline employees of the MVC who we serve to take responsibility, stand accountable and im-

prove every day. That process is already underway both through the implementation of corrective actions and other improvements MVC staff had already initiated internally since the outbreak of the pandemic. MVC will conduct its own after action review to drive further improvement to make the services we provide the finest in the nation for Veterans."

Noonan thanked the Veterans Homes' hundreds of staffers and headquarters' personnel for their many sacrifices and dedicated service over the last 10 months. He said MVC will continue to listen to the frontline caregivers who provide critical life-sustaining care to Veterans on a daily basis.

MVC has already implemented many of the recommendations in the report, including daily testing

of Veterans and homes' staff, expanded use of COVID-19 data analytics and launching an Essential Caregiver Program that enables Veterans to have direct contact in the homes with a designated family member to help ensure the Veteran's health and wellbeing while COVID-19 restrictions are in place.

Personally identifiable and other closed information has been redacted from the investigation report in compliance with confidentiality requirements. A 50-page summary of the report had been released to the public on December 2, 2020.

The Missouri Veterans Commission, a division of the Department of Public Safety, operates seven State Veterans Homes, five State Veterans Cemeteries, and the Vet-

erans Services Program. The Commission is committed to honoring and serving Missouri's Veterans whose dedication and sacrifices have preserved our nation and its freedoms. For more information about the Missouri Veterans Commission programs, call (573) 751-3779, online at <http://www.mvc.dps.mo.gov>, or [facebook.com/MissouriVeteransCommission](https://www.facebook.com/MissouriVeteransCommission).



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SENIOR SPOTLIGHT



Ricky Becker (left) is featured in the DHS "Senior Spotlight." He is the Grandson of Dixie Neace.

Ricky plans to move to Ohio and live with his Aunt after graduation. His advice to the underclassmen is to do your work and turn in your assignments. Ricky will miss being with his buddies the most after High School.

Isaac Tilberg (right) is featured in the DHS "Senior Spotlight."
Isaac plans to work after he graduates High School. His advice to the underclassmen is to just keep swimming. What Isaac will miss the most about High School is the people.



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Lake Regional Pulmonology Welcomes Nurse Practitioner Kim Farris

OSAGE BEACH, Mo. — Lake Regional Health System announces Kim Farris, MSN, APRN, FNP, NP-C, joined Lake Regional Pulmonology on Jan. 1. Farris works closely with Pulmonologist Harjot "Joe" Sohal, M.D., and Cira Monnig, FNP, to care for adult patients with lung diseases and respiratory conditions.

"We are excited to have Nurse Practitioner Kim Farris join our Pulmonology team," said Lindsay Bentley, MSN, RNC-MNN, director of Clinical Operations. "She is a compassionate provider, and her extensive health care experience will be an asset to the pulmonology clinic."

Farris has worked at Lake Regional since 2000. She started as a registered nurse in the Postanesthesia Care Unit and Outpatient Services and then moved to Cardiopulmonary Rehabilitation. For the past seven years, she has provided patient care at Lake Regional Cancer Center. Farris earned a family nurse practitioner master's degree from Graceland University in Independence, Missouri.

"I have really enjoyed the past 20 years at Lake Regional," Farris said. "I have grown so much while working here, and I am looking forward to continuing to gain new skills and knowledge."

Farris approaches her patients as if she is caring for one of her own family members and delights in the opportunity to build respectful relationships with every patient.



Kim Farris, MSN, APRN, FNP, NP-C. (Submitted)

"Effective communication is key to building a trusting relationship between the provider and patient, as well as their families," Farris said. "Taking a little extra time to connect and better explain things can make a big difference in patient understanding and compliance."

Originally from Barnett, Missouri, Farris has lived in Eldon for nearly 34 years with her husband, Sonny. They have three children, two grandchildren and two rescue dogs. In her free time, Farris enjoys spending time with her family, going camping and being outdoors.

Lake Regional Pulmonology is located in Suite 225 inside Lake Regional Hospital. To schedule an appointment, call 573-302-3199. To view Farris's bio, visit lakeregional.com/physicians.

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