



STATE OF WASHINGTON
DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS
Spokane Veterans Home • 222 E 5th • Spokane WA 99202-0538

July 24, 2021

Dear Spokane Veterans Home Residents, Family and Representatives, and Staff,

In an effort to maintain transparency, WDVA continues to share information on COVID-19 and its impact on our State Veterans Homes.

We are writing to provide an update on our COVID-19 testing and results. On the 22nd we sent out notification of a positive staff member [SVH Family letter regarding positive staff member](#). Today, we received confirmation of a COVID-19 positive test result for 1 additional staff member. We are working closely with the Spokane Regional Health District and following guidance from them, Centers for Disease Control, Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS), and our State Department of Health to ensure we are safeguarding our residents and staff.

Residents and staff in the affected areas will be tested according to guidance provided by the Spokane Regional Health District. Residents have been tested and their results have been negative. We will retest every 3-7 days until 14 days have passed without a positive. Additional environmental cleaning continues to take place and the Spokane Veterans Home will conduct enhanced surveillance, including symptom and temperature checks during each shift, for residents in the affected areas for a period of at least 14 days since the recent staff positive test result.

In accordance with recommendations from the Spokane Regional Health District, indoor visitation will be temporarily suspended and reevaluated after 7 days. Outdoor visitations, compassionate care visits, and volunteers are still permitted with the current guidelines in place.

Staff are wearing appropriate PPE throughout the nursing care building and we have adequate supplies of all PPE.

Staff at all State Veterans Homes 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. Staff are asked to report any symptoms that occur after coming to work.

The State Veterans Homes are following guidance from the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services, which requires regular testing of all long-term care facility staff. The Spokane Veterans Home will return to weekly testing based on current guidance.



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As a part of our continued efforts to curb the spread of the COVID-19 virus, the State Veterans Homes are vaccine administrators and hold scheduled vaccination clinics for unvaccinated residents and staff on-site. We encourage all residents, staff, and community members who are able and eligible to be vaccinated to consider getting vaccinated for 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>.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Patrick McNabb".

Patrick McNabb
Spokane Veterans Home Administrator