



STATE OF WASHINGTON

**DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS**

**Walla Walla Veterans Home**

**92 Wainwright Drive • Walla Walla, Washington 99362 • 509-394-6800**

December 7, 2020

Dear Walla Walla Veterans Home Family or Representative,

On Friday, we shared a letter letting you know of a possible staff member diagnosed with COVID-19. Today, we are following up to let you know that the second test confirmed the COVID-19 diagnosis. Also, today we had another employee test positive for COVID-19 using the rapid test. This staff person will also be retested using the PCR lab test; however, we will proceed as though they are positive and continue with the regular precautions. We are continuing the proactive measures we started on Friday and will also be testing residents in the two affected houses today and again in five days. Staff will be regularly tested based on the County's positivity rate and guidance from the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services.

We are working with Walla Walla County Department of Health to determine next steps with regard to additional measures and proactive testing. We also are following guidance from CDC, CMS and our State Department of Health to ensure we are safeguarding our residents and staff.

Additional environmental cleaning took place in areas that the staff member worked and the Walla Walla Veterans Home will conduct enhanced surveillance, including 4-hour symptom and temperature checks, for residents in the affected units for the next 14 days.

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.

The Walla Walla Veterans Home, is following guidance from the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Service, which requires regular testing of all long-term care facility staff. This may result in the identification of asymptomatic carriers, but is an important tool in defending against 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>.

Victor Odiakosa  
Interim Administrator