



**STATE OF WASHINGTON
DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS
Walla Walla Veterans Home
92 Wainwright Drive • Walla Walla, Washington 99362 • 509-394-6800**

July 13, 2021

Dear Residents, Family, and Representatives:

In an effort to maintain transparency, WDVA continues to share information on COVID-19 and its impact on our State Veterans Homes. Over the weekend, we received confirmation of two COVID-19 positive test results for two staff members.

The affected House is currently quarantined. Staff are wearing appropriate PPE while working in affected Houses and we have adequate supplies of all PPE. Residents and staff in the affected area have been rapid tested and all results are negative. Resident testing will continue every seven days in the affected House until 14 days have passed without a positive result. All staff are COVID-19 tested weekly.

Indoor visitations for the affected neighborhood are suspended until the quarantine is lifted, this the exception of compassion care or end of life pre-approved visits. If you have questions regarding alternative visitation options for the affected areas, please call 509-394-6800.

Additional environmental cleaning continues to take place and we will conduct enhanced surveillance, including 4-hour symptom and temperature checks, for residents for the next 14 days. Staff members continue to closely monitor all residents and to isolate COVID-19 positive residents.

We are in close contact with the Department of Health Infection Preventionist as well as the Local Health Department to determine whether there are additional steps that can be taken.

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. Currently the rate of positivity in Walla Walla County requires staff to be tested once each week.

As a part of our continued efforts to curb the spread of the COVID-19 virus, the State Veterans Homes are now vaccine administrators and will 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>.

Lonna Leno
Administrator
Walla Walla Veterans Home