



STATE OF WASHINGTON

DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS

Walla Walla Veterans Home

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

March 24, 2020

Dear Walla Walla Veterans Home Family or Representative,

We are sending this letter in our continuing effort to keep you informed of how our Homes are modifying services during the COVID-19 crisis.

As of today, we have no cases of COVID-19 in any of our Veterans Homes. Our priority remains keeping our residents, our staff, and you safe and healthy. The changes we've had to make to do this have been hard on everyone, especially our residents and you their family and friends.

Testing Update as of March 24 at 8:40am:

**RESIDENTS**

Residents with a ***positive*** COVID-19 test:

- WA Veterans Home in Port Orchard: 0
- WA Soldiers Home in Orting: 0
- Spokane Veterans Home: 0
- Walla Walla Veterans Home: 0

Residents with a ***negative*** COVID-19 test:

- WA Veterans Home in Port Orchard: 4
- WA Soldiers Home in Orting: 1
- Spokane Veterans Home: 3
- Walla Walla Veterans Home: 0

Total number of residents **tested**:

- WA Veterans Home in Port Orchard: 5
- WA Soldiers Home in Orting: 1
- Spokane Veterans Home: 6
- Walla Walla Veterans Home: 1

**STAFF**

Staff with a ***positive*** COVID-19 test:

- WA Veterans Home in Port Orchard: 0
- WA Soldiers Home in Orting: 0
- Spokane Veterans Home: 0
- Walla Walla Veterans Home: 0

Staff with a ***negative*** COVID-19 test:

- WA Veterans Home in Port Orchard: 2
- WA Soldiers Home in Orting: 0
- Spokane Veterans Home: 1
- Walla Walla Veterans Home: 1

Total number of staff **tested**:

- WA Veterans Home in Port Orchard: 5
- WA Soldiers Home in Orting: 3
- Spokane Veterans Home: 2
- Walla Walla Veterans Home: 1

This information is updated frequently on our website at [www.dva.wa.gov/covid](http://www.dva.wa.gov/covid).

Also included with this letter is a list of frequently asked questions regarding visitors, COVID-19 testing, and other topics.

Staff in our homes are doing the very best they can to keep residents active and engaged by offering new in-room or appropriately socially-distanced activities in the Homes. They are also working hard to schedule and assist with virtual visits using technology. We ask for your patience as we continue to learn some of this new technology along with you and our residents! We might not get it right the first few times, but over time, we will all get better at this!

Here are some of the things our Activities and Social Work staff are doing to work with residents and provide emotional support:

- Additional smart phones, iPad minis, and surfaces available for virtual visits;
- In addition to our regular activities staff, other employees are assisting in each house to ensure residents have access to activities;
- We've started room bingo;
- Activity cards throughout the facility;
- Doorway Sit and Fit exercises;
- Distributing DVD movies;
- Current events;
- Individual arts and craft kits are available (woodwork, car kits, paint sets, blanket making, puzzles, etc.); and
- Staff are observing residents and making referrals to social work as well.

While you've probably seen some very heartwarming stories about residents 'visiting' through the windows with their family members, now that we are under a Stay Home, Stay Healthy order from Governor Inslee, we ask that you please follow this order. We will only prevent the spread of COVID-19 if we all do our part to limit the opportunity for the virus to spread, which includes staying home unless travel is essential.

I want to thank you for your cooperation and understanding through all of the changes that are taking place. Our staff are working hard to keep your loved one safe and I can't tell you how much we appreciate their work. We will continue to update the WDVA Website with messages like this as well as updates on COVID-19 tests performed and their outcomes. [www.dva.wa.gov/covid](http://www.dva.wa.gov/covid).

If you have questions, please contact us at 509-394-6800.

Sincerely,

Daniel Knapp  
Walla Walla Veterans Home Administrator