



STATE OF WASHINGTON

DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS

Walla Walla Veterans Home

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

May 6, 2020

We are writing today in our continued effort to keep you informed on what is happening at the Walla Walla Veterans Home. Life has certainly changed for all of us, but the impact on you and your loved one is most significant. We know this is hard and we greatly appreciate your patience and support in following the guidelines that keep our residents and staff members safe.

There is talk of easing restrictions for certain services and industries in Washington; however, it's very likely that restrictions will continue to be in place for long term care facilities even after the Stay Home, Stay Healthy order is lifted. The risk that this virus poses to our population is simply too great. We need to continue to ask for your cooperation on the no visitor policy.

Our activities department is doing a wonderful job of creating opportunities for families to visit virtually. If you haven't taken advantage of this opportunity yet, please contact them at 509-394-6800 to set up a visit.

Resident and Staff Testing

As you know, we are proactively testing all of our residents and staff members. We know that many carriers of COVID-19, of all ages, have no symptoms but are able to spread the virus without knowing it. That is why we believe the proactive step of testing all residents and staff, even if they are not experiencing symptoms, is an important tool. Even after this testing is complete, we will continue to re-test any resident with COVID-19 symptoms.

All 77 residents have been tested and all 77 tests have returned with negative results.

Proactive testing of all staff was completed and 171 have been returned with negative results, one staff member has been diagnosed with COVID-19. This staff member had been wearing proper protective equipment and is now self-isolated at home.

You can find updated testing information on our website at www.dva.wa.gov/covid or by calling a recorded phone line at 509-394-6826

PPE Status

Our State Veterans Homes are receiving shipments of personal protective equipment from our local health departments as well as from the State Emergency Operations Center. If we have either residents or staff who are either experiencing symptoms or test positive for COVID-19, we use additional PPE to prevent the virus from spreading. Making sure we have adequate supplies of these items is essential and our Homes are working closely with our Central Office to order and account for PPE in our facilities. Right now, we have adequate supplies and are able to order and receive supplies as they are used.

I want to thank the many community members and groups who have come forward to make masks, face shields, gowns and other items that can be reused. The generosity of our Veterans' community and community at large is absolutely amazing and we can't thank you enough!

Activities:

We're working hard to keep your loved one engaged and active! In addition to the virtual visit opportunities, the activities department is spending time with each resident individually doing crafts, going for walks outside, and with our nice spring weather starting to work on the garden beds outside each house! We have also connected with groups such as an equine therapy group who brought horses for a walk around the exterior of the houses. We have administrative staff volunteering with various things such as an ice cream cart and music.

Community Donations

I also want to thank the many community members and families who have stepped forward to share their talents and in some cases their resources to show our Homes Team how much they are appreciated. The donations of food, homemade masks, activities for residents, and many other items are so appreciated!

We will continue to send these emails and letters and would like to hear from you if there is other information or updates you would like to hear from us. To provide faster communication, we ask that you provide the facility with your email address if you have not done so already. You can submit an email to Christena.Terjeson@dva.wa.gov or 509-394-6800. We are here to serve your loved one and you as best we can through these challenging times.

Sincerely,

Danny Knapp
Administrator



632 VIRTUAL VISITS – FACILITATED FOR OUR RESIDENTS & THEIR LOVED ONES



6,322 ITEMS DONATED

Essential Supplies Collected:

- 6,192 – Cloth Masks
- 130 – Face Shields
- \$1,625 – Donated Funds



SERVING THOSE WHO SERVED

For our COVID-19 updates visit

www.dva.wa.gov/covid

Questions? Send to communications@dva.wa.gov