



STATE OF WASHINGTON
DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS
Spokane Veterans Home - 222 E 5th Ave. Spokane, WA 99202

September 30, 2020

Dear Spokane Veterans Home Family or Representative,

Last night, we received confirmation that one of our employees at the Spokane Veterans Home was diagnosed with COVID-19, the employee is now self-isolated at home. The employee was asymptomatic and was identified through the regular testing recently required by the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Service. Based on the positive test result and positive rates in Spokane County, staff will continue to be proactively tested each week, until CMS guidance recommends moving to monthly testing.

We want to reassure residents, staff and family members that we are working closely with the Spokane Regional Health District and following guidance from CDC, CMS and our State Department of Health to ensure we are taking every possible precaution.

Additional environmental cleaning took place in areas that the staff member worked and the Spokane Veterans Home will conduct enhanced surveillance, including 4-hour symptom and temperature checks, for residents in the affected units for the next 14 days. In addition, residents will continue to be tested proactively every 3-7 days until 14 days have passed since the last positive result.

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.

While the positive result means that we are continuing to hold on scheduling outdoor booth visits, we are still scheduling window visits in the dining room and Face Time and Google Duo calls via your Cell phones, computers, laptops or iPad. If you would like to schedule a window or Face Time or Google Duo visit, please contact Jeanette Sauer-Smith at (509) 344-5788 office or (509) 688-9209 cell.

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,

Patrick McNabb
SVH Administrator