

Washington State Department of Veterans Affairs News Release



December 8, 2020

Port Orchard, Spokane, Walla Walla: We received confirmation that several WDVA employees have been diagnosed with COVID-19.

- Washington Veterans Home, Port Orchard: one on-call employee has been diagnosed with COVID-19. All staff will be proactively tested weekly based on positivity rates in Kitsap County. As a precaution, residents in the area where the staff person worked will be proactively tested.
- Spokane Veterans Home: one employee has been diagnosed with COVID-19. All staff continue to be proactively tested twice each week based on positivity rates in Spokane County. As a precaution, residents will be proactively tested.
- Walla Walla Veterans Home: two employees have been diagnosed with COVID-19. (One is a confirmation of a rapid test result on December 4.) All staff continue to be proactively tested twice each week based on positivity rates in Walla Walla County. As a precaution, residents in the affected neighborhoods will be proactively tested.

We are working closely with the Local Public Health Agencies and following guidance from the CDC, CMS and our State Department of Health to ensure we are taking every possible precaution.

Additional environmental cleaning took place in each of the Homes, and staff members continue to conduct symptom checks for all residents on each shift.

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 are asked to report any symptoms that occur after coming to work.

We are notifying residents, staff and family representatives via email or letter and a post to the website. We have informed employees of their possible exposure in the workplace but we will maintain confidentiality as required by the Americans with Disabilities Act.

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>.

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Media Contact
Heidi Audette
Communications and Legislative Director
(360) 791-8966 – cell
heidia@dva.wa.gov