

# Washington State Department of Veterans Affairs News Release



**August 16, 2021**

**Statewide:** In an effort to maintain transparency, WDVA continues to share information on COVID-19 and its impact on our State Veterans Homes.

Last week, the CDC officially recommended additional vaccines for people with weakened immune systems. Our Veterans Homes medical teams are reviewing CDC guidance and resident records to determine who might be eligible at this time. Because the State Veterans Homes are vaccine administrators, we will be able to provide the additional vaccine to eligible residents, who choose to receive it, at our facilities.

## **Washington Veterans Home, Port Orchard:**

Today and over the weekend, five additional residents were diagnosed with COVID-19. A total of thirty-six residents and eight staff have been diagnosed with COVID-19 since July 30, 2021. All residents have been tested and will continue to be tested if symptoms are present, or every 3-7 days until 14 days have passed without a resident positive.

## **Spokane Veterans Home:**

On Friday, August 13, Spokane Veterans Home Residents who were transferred to the Mann-Grandstaff VA Medical Center began moving back to the Spokane Veterans Home. Nine residents were receiving care at MGVMC, but because their symptoms do not require that higher level of care they are able to return home. The Spokane Veterans Home team will continue to closely monitor each resident, and if their conditions require additional care, we will reach out to the MGVMC or local hospitals. Additional information is available [here](#).

**Previously Reported Information:** All staff are wearing appropriate PPE and we have adequate supplies of all PPE. Resident testing will continue at least every 3-7 days until 14 days have passed without a positive result. Staff continue to be tested according to the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services requirements.

Additional environmental cleaning continues to take place and we will conduct enhanced surveillance, including symptom and temperature checks, during every shift, for residents in affected areas for the next 14 days. Staff members continue to closely monitor all residents.

We are in close contact with the Department of Health Infection Preventionist as well as the Local Health Departments 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.

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

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