



STATE OF WASHINGTON

DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS

Walla Walla Veterans Home

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August 19, 2021

Dear Walla Walla Veterans Home Residents, Family and Representatives,

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.

Yesterday, one staff member was diagnosed with COVID-19. We are working closely with the Walla Walla County Department of Community Health and following guidance from them, the Centers for Disease Control, Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS), and our State Department of Health to ensure we are safeguarding our residents and staff.

All residents have been tested today with 100% negative results and will be tested every 3-7 days until 14 days have passed without a positive. Residents will continue to be screened and monitored for symptoms regularly. Staff are currently being tested twice each week and are also paying 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 potential exposures to positive cases, whether any symptoms are present, and a temperature check. In addition, staff are asked to report any symptoms that may begin to occur during their shift after coming to work, even if they weren't experiencing symptoms prior.

Our Housekeeping and Facilities departments are working extremely hard throughout the facility to ensure that all equipment and linens are kept clean and sanitized. Along with the daily cleaning, sanitation, and repair routines these teams provide continuous disinfections commonly touched surfaces within all of the buildings on campus.

### **Vaccine Information**

As a part of our continued efforts to curb the spread of the COVID-19 virus, our home is holding vaccination clinics for unvaccinated staff, residents, visitors, volunteers and

family members who wish to receive the vaccine. We encourage all residents, staff, and community members who are able and eligible to be vaccinated to consider getting vaccinated for COVID-19. If you are interested in receiving a vaccine and would like more information about our upcoming clinics, please call 509-394-6808.

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>.