

# Washington State Department of Veterans Affairs News Release



**August 4, 2021**

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

**Spokane Veterans Home:** Yesterday, we received confirmation of two additional COVID-19 positive test results for residents. This brings the total to eight positive residents and four positive staff since July 21, 2021. All residents have been transferred to local facilities.

**Washington Veterans Home, Port Orchard:**

Today, we received confirmation of two COVID-19 positive test results for residents.

**Washington Soldiers Home, Orting:**

Today we received confirmation of a COVID-19 positive test result for 1 staff member. This staff member did not have direct contact with any residents and minimal contact with other employees while wearing appropriate protective equipment. Employees who had close contact were tested with rapid tests and all tests have returned negative.

**Additional Information:** All staff are wearing appropriate PPE and we have adequate supplies of all PPE. At both the Spokane Veterans Home and Washington Veterans Home in Port Orchard, 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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