



STATE OF WASHINGTON
DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS

Spokane Veterans Home • 222 E 5th • Spokane WA 99202-0538 • (509) 344-5770

August 6, 2021

Dear Spokane Veterans Home Residents, Family, Representatives, and Staff:

I want to thank each of you for your patience as we work through this COVID-19 outbreak. I know these letters are hard to receive, particularly when they seem to come on a daily basis. Please know that our team is working hard and using every resource and technique that we know of, to keep you and your loved one safe and virus free.

New information:

Last evening, as we were conducting regular testing for staff, we had one contracted agency staff person who tested positive for COVID-19 and this afternoon we were informed that another SVH staff person has also tested positive for COVID-19. Since July 21, 2021, we have had ten positive residents and six positive staff.

Previously reported information:

We are working closely with the Spokane Regional Health District and following guidance from them, 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 will be tested and we will retest every 3-5 days until 14 days have passed without a positive. Additional environmental cleaning continues to take place and the Spokane Veterans Home will conduct enhanced surveillance, including symptom and temperature checks during each shift, for residents in the affected areas for a period of at least 14 days.

In accordance with recommendations from the Spokane Regional Health District, indoor visitation, outdoor visitation, and visiting volunteers are temporarily suspended. We are encouraging families who are eligible for compassionate care visits, to schedule virtual visits. Please contact Jeanette, Nikki or Eric in Rec. Therapy at (509) 688-9209 or (509) 221-0799 to make these arrangements.

Staff are wearing appropriate PPE throughout the nursing care building and we have adequate supplies of all PPE.

Staff at the Spokane Veterans Home 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.

The State Veterans Homes are following guidance from the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services, which requires regular testing of all long-term care facility staff. The Spokane Veterans Home is performing weekly testing based on current guidance.

As a part of our continued efforts to curb the spread of the COVID-19 virus, the State Veterans Homes are vaccine administrators and hold scheduled vaccination clinics for unvaccinated residents, staff, and now family and visitors 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. If you are interested in receiving a vaccine and would like more information about our upcoming Vaccine Clinics, please call (509) 344-5079 or (509) 319-5083.

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
Spokane Veterans Home Administrator