



STATE OF WASHINGTON
DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS

Spokane Veterans Home • 222 E. 5th Ave. • Spokane, WA 99202-1394 • (509)344-5770

September 7, 2021

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

We are providing information below to give you an update on our COVID-19 situation here at our Veterans Home.

New COVID-19 information:

We are deeply saddened to share the loss of an Honored Veterans Home Resident following their COVID-19 diagnosis, either due to COVID-19 or other underlying medical conditions. Each of our Spokane Veterans Home Residents is part of our WDVA Family, and we extend our condolences to their family and friends during this very difficult time.

As a result of our ongoing twice a week testing of residents, 4 additional residents and 9 additional staff members, and 1 contracted employee who is now self-isolated at home, all have been diagnosed with COVID-19. Since July 21, 2021, 27 residents and 20 staff (contracted staff included) have tested positive for COVID-19.

Previously reported information:

We are working closely with the infection control team from the Mann-Grandstaff VA Medical Center and the Spokane Regional Health District. We are 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 will be retested every 3-7 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 Recreation 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 twice 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