

Washington State Department of Veterans Affairs News Release



September 22, 2021

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:

We are updating information regarding residents who have passed during our recent COVID-19 outbreak which began on July 21, 2021. Four media releases have been issued sharing information; however, six Veterans Home Residents have passed away following their COVID-19 diagnosis since July 21, 2021. The two additional releases should have been shared in mid-August.

Walla Walla Veterans Home:

This morning we received confirmation that two of our WWVH residents and two WWVH staff were diagnosed with COVID-19. This brings the total to four residents and two staff members diagnosed with COVID-19 since September 10. We are working closely with the Walla Walla County Department of Community Health 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 continuing to follow the strictest guidance in safeguarding our residents and staff.

We are testing all residents and will continue to screen and monitor for symptoms regularly. Staff are tested twice each week. All staff are screened upon arrival at work each day. This process includes a series of questions around whether symptoms are present, any potential exposures, and a temperature check. In addition, staff are asked to report any symptoms that occur after coming to work. All staff continue to wear PPE in accordance with guidance for nursing home employees.

Vaccine Information

As a part of our continued efforts to curb the spread of the COVID-19 virus, our homes are holding vaccination clinics for all 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.

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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