September 27, 2021

Dear Walla Walla Veterans Home Residents, Families, Resident Representatives, and Staff Members:

We have received confirmation that one WWVH resident was diagnosed with COVID-19 yesterday. This brings the total to six residents and five 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.

According to guidance received from the Walla Walla County Department of Community Health, a “No Visitors” policy is to be in place until 14 days have passed with no additional positive cases, except for compassionate visits.

Our Activities Department is working hard to schedule compassionate visits while also providing 1:1 and individual activity opportunities during this time. Virtual visits are also encouraged right now! If you would like to schedule a virtual visit or preapproved compassionate visit, please call 509-394-6800 during regular business hours M-F, and 509-394-6890 on the weekends.

If you would like to discuss the possibility of arranging compassionate visits with your loved one, please contact WWVH Social Services at 509-394-6816 or 509-394-6821. They'll be able to walk you through the criteria and explain the process for approval and scheduling of these visits. Your continued connection with your loved one here is vital, and we are doing all we can to facilitate this. Your thoughts and suggestions in this regard are always more than welcome.

I will continue to keep you updated and, as always, welcome your questions, concerns, and ideas.

With hope and respect,

Lonna Leno
Administrator
Walla Walla Veterans Home

Click here for WDVA COVID-19 UPDATES.