

Washington State Department of Veterans Affairs News Release



October 4, 2021

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

Washington Soldiers Home, Orting:

We received confirmation that one WSH resident was diagnosed with COVID-19 late yesterday. We are working closely with the Tacoma-Pierce County Health Department 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.

Spokane Veterans Home:

We have received confirmation that one of our Veterans Home team members has been diagnosed with COVID-19. Since July 21, 2021, thirty-three Residents and twenty-one staff have been diagnosed with COVID-19. We are working closely with the Spokane Regional Health District, 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.

We will continue the testing of all residents every 3-5 days for 14 days and will screen and monitor for symptoms regularly. Due to the increased rates in Spokane County, staff are tested twice a week and are also paying close attention to 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. In addition, staff are asked to report any symptoms that occur after coming to work.

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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