



STATE OF WASHINGTON  
DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS  
Walla Walla Veterans Home

92 Wainwright Drive | Walla Walla, Washington 99362 | 509-394-6800 | 509-527-4199 (fax)

January 12, 2022

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

Through our proactive testing of residents and staff, we have identified 1 resident and 1 additional staff member who have been diagnosed with COVID-19. This brings our total to 12 staff members (6 are now recovered), and 1 resident (as of today) who've received a positive COVID-19 diagnosis since December 25, 2022. The resident who tested positive today is currently isolated, and the house the resident lives in is quarantined. In addition to being monitored and screened for symptoms on every shift, all residents are being tested every 5-7 days. In response to questions from our Resident Council, residents will be informed if their test result is positive as quickly as possible, usually within 15 to 30 minutes, and we will continue with the 'no news is good news' practice that we've been following for negative test results.

We continue to follow guidance from the Walla Walla County Department of Community Health, Center for Disease Control, CMS (Medicare and Medicaid Services), and our State Department of Health to ensure we are doing everything we can to safeguard our residents and staff.

**Employee Screening and Vaccinations:** All WWVH staff have been fully vaccinated, are tested twice weekly, and are screened upon arrival to work each day. The screening process includes a series of questions around whether symptoms are present, whether they've been exposed to a positive case, and a temperature check. Staff are asked to report any symptoms that may present after they arrived at work.

**Activities and Visitors:** No change to current protocol for the unaffected houses. Residents and families of the affected house have all been notified. If you have not heard from our staff that your loved one is in the affected house, you're welcome to continue scheduling visits as usual. In accordance with WA State's "Safe Start for Long Term Care", virtual, window, and outdoor visits are allowed for those in the house with the COVID-19 positive resident. Indoor visitation is allowed in that house only for compassionate care and essential visitors -such as those who've been approved to come in regularly for a necessary reason such as assisting their loved

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one with eating meals. Please call 509-394-6800 to schedule visits. (Window visits do not require scheduling, but it's advised to call in advance so staff can help your loved one be up and ready for the visit.)

**Facility, PPE, Housekeeping:** Our Housekeeping, Procurement, and Maintenance departments continue to work 7 days a week to assure that the facility is clean, well-stocked with PPE, and sanitized. Our wonderful custodians provide ongoing thorough disinfection of the most touched surfaces along with their daily cleaning and sanitation routines.

To access current WDVA Covid-19 data and updates, please visit the following website that was developed for families and resident representatives:

<https://www.dva.wa.gov/covid>.

Respectfully,

Lonna Leno  
Administrator