



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 18, 2022

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

Through our proactive testing of residents and staff, we have identified 5 additional staff members who have been diagnosed with COVID-19. This brings our total to 1 resident, and 21 staff members (11 now recovered) who have received a positive COVID-19 diagnosis since December 25, 2021.

In addition to being monitored and screened for symptoms on every shift, all residents are being tested every 5-7 days.

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.

Visitation: We are following the most current guidance from the Walla Walla Department of Community Health which went into effect on 01/14/2022. Due to extremely high community transmission of the Omicron variant and resultant risk to residents of long-term care facilities in WW County, in-person visitation will be limited to compassionate care visits and essential support persons only (one essential support person is allowed for every resident). It is anticipated that this guidance will remain in place until community transmission decreases to a safer level. Please call 509-394-6800 and ask for Social Services to discuss compassionate care and/or essential visitor options. Virtual, window, and outdoor visits are available for all other residents during this time. **Please call 509-394-6890 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.)

Serving Those Who Served

Facility, PPE, Housekeeping: Our Housekeeping, Procurement, and Maintenance departments continue to work seven days a week to assure that the facility is clean and well-stocked with PPE. 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 residents, families and resident representatives:
<https://www.dva.wa.gov/covid>.

Respectfully,

Lonna Leno
Administrator
Walla Walla Veterans Home