



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 31, 2022

Dear WWVH Residents, Family, Representatives, and Staff:

Through our proactive testing protocols, we have identified 4 additional staff members who've been diagnosed with COVID-19.

Since December 25, we have had 35 staff members test positive (27 now recovered). We currently have zero COVID-19 positive residents. The one who did test positive during the current outbreak timeframe (*starting 12/25*) has fully recovered.

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.

Resident Testing: In addition to being monitored and screened for symptoms on every shift, all residents are being tested every 5-7 days during this outbreak timeframe.

Employee Screening, Testing, 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. Due to high community transmission of the Omicron variant: In-person visitation is allowed for essential support persons (one essential support person is allowed for every resident); and compassionate care visits (more than one person allowed, but just one person at a time - except for end-of-life situations). 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 also available as always. **Please call 509-394-6890 to schedule visits.** (*Window visits do not require*

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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 seven days a week to assure that the facility is clean and well-stocked with PPE. Our wonderful custodians provide ongoing 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