



STATE OF WASHINGTON

DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS

Walla Walla Veterans Home

92 Wainwright Drive • Walla Walla, Washington 99362 • 509-394-6800

January 7, 2021

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

As we continue to provide updates on our COVID-19 testing and results, we are writing to let you know that one of our contract staff members and one of our team members have been diagnosed with COVID-19. They are self-isolating at home.

All residents in the affected areas will be tested and retested every 5-7 days until 14 days have passed without a new resident positive. Additional environmental cleaning continues to take place and the Walla Walla Veterans Home will conduct enhanced surveillance, including 4-hour symptom and temperature checks, for residents in the affected areas for the next 14 days.

We are working with the Walla Walla County Department of Community Health and following guidance from CDC, CMS and our State Department of Health to ensure we are safeguarding our residents and staff.

We are asking our staff to pay 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.

The Walla Walla Veterans Home, is following guidance from the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Service, which requires regular testing of all long-term care facility staff, currently the rate of positivity in Walla Walla County requires staff to be tested twice each week. This may result in the identification of asymptomatic carriers, but is an important tool in defending against COVID-19.

We also want to remind you that our second Vaccine Clinic is scheduled for January 21, pending confirmation from Walgreens Pharmacy. Residents who received their first shot on December 31 will receive their second shot on this day. For any resident and staff who wish to receive the vaccine, January 21, pending confirmation from Walgreens Pharmacy, is our only other scheduled clinic where an initial shot may be received. If you are a family member or representatives that holds POA for your resident you should have

received a consent form. ***If your resident is unable to self-consent, Please return this to us ASAP!*** If you need a new copy, it can be found online at: www.dva.wa.gov/covid.

We will be receiving the Pfizer vaccine which is given in two steps, 21 days apart. The only contraindication to the vaccine is relative and includes a history of severe reaction to another vaccine. Side effects tend to be mild and include arm pain, a warm lump at the vaccine site, achiness and fatigue. Some people get a temporary low grade fever. Side effects tend to be most common in the week following the second injection. If a person gets side effects, it does not mean that something is wrong, it only means that the vaccine is doing its job and your body is mounting an effective immune response.

This vaccine has been shown to be over 95% effective at preventing COVID-19 infection in those studied.

If you have questions regarding the vaccine clinic, please contact the facility at 509-394-6800.

Sincerely,
Victor Odiakosa
Walla Walla Veterans Home