



STATE OF WASHINGTON

DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS

Walla Walla Veterans Home

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

June 21, 2021

Dear Walla Walla Veterans Home Residents, Family and Representatives,

We are writing to provide an update on our COVID-19 testing and results. Over the weekend, we received confirmation of a COVID-19 positive test result for 1 staff member. We are working closely with the Walla Walla County Department of Community Health 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 safeguarding our residents and staff.

RESIDENT TESTING & SURVEILLANCE

Residents and staff in the affected areas have been rapid tested today and all have come back negative. We will retest every 7 days until 14 days have passed without a new resident or staff positive. Additional environmental cleaning continues to take place and we will be conducting enhanced surveillance for residents in the affected houses, including 4-hour symptom and temperature checks, for a period of at least 14 days beyond the date of the staff member's positive test result. If additional positive cases of COVID-19 among facility staff or residents are identified through testing, WDVA will provide updates to ensure staff, residents, families, caregivers, and the community are informed of current facility status.

INDOOR VISITS

Indoor visits for the affected neighborhood will be rescheduled until after the quarantine period is over, July 2nd. Families and visitors to residents in the affected neighborhood will be contacted directly.

STAFF TESTING & SCREENING

Staff continue to be tested each 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 home is hosting a vaccination clinic on June 30 by the Walla Walla Department of Community Health for all unvaccinated staff and residents 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>.

Sincerely,

Lonna Leno
Walla Walla Veterans Home Administrator