



STATE OF WASHINGTON
DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS

Spokane Veterans Home • 222 E 5th Avenue • Spokane, WA 99202-0538 • (509)344-5770

July 30, 2021

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

In an effort to maintain transparency, we are sharing new information on COVID-19 and its impact on our Home.

We are writing to provide an update on our COVID-19 testing and results. Today, we received confirmation of a COVID-19 positive test result for a resident. The resident has been transferred to Mann-Grandstaff VA Medical Center. We are working closely with the Spokane Regional Health District 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.

Residents have been tested again today according to guidance provided by the Spokane Regional Health District. We will retest every 3-7 days until 14 days have passed without a positive. Additional environmental cleaning continues to take place and the Spokane Veterans Home will conduct enhanced surveillance, including symptom and temperature checks during each shift, for residents in the affected areas for a period of at least 14 days.

In accordance with recommendations from the Spokane Regional Health District, indoor visitation, outdoor visitation, and visiting volunteers are temporarily suspended. Compassionate care visits, are still permitted with the current guidelines in place which is **“one designated”** visitor only that is allowed to visit once a week.

Staff are wearing appropriate PPE throughout the nursing care building and we have adequate supplies of all PPE.

Staff at all Spokane Veterans Homes continue to monitor 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. Staff are asked to report any symptoms that occur after coming to work.

The State Veterans Homes are following guidance from the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services, which requires regular testing of all long-term care facility staff. The Spokane Veterans Home is performing weekly testing based on current guidance.

As a part of our continued efforts to curb the spread of the COVID-19 virus, the State Veterans Homes are vaccine administrators and hold scheduled vaccination clinics for unvaccinated residents, staff, and now family and visitors on-site. We encourage all residents, staff, and community members who are able and eligible to be vaccinated to consider getting vaccinated for COVID-19. For more information about our upcoming Vaccine Clinics, please call Hardish RN 3 at (509) 344-5079 or (509) 319-5083.

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,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Patrick McNabb', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Patrick McNabb
Spokane Veterans Home Administrator