



STATE OF WASHINGTON

DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS

Walla Walla Veterans Home

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

September 30, 2020

Dear Walla Walla Veterans Home Family or Representative,

Today, we received confirmation that one of our employees at the Walla Walla Veterans Home was diagnosed with COVID-19, the employee is now self-isolated at home.

We want to reassure residents, staff and family members that we are working closely with the Walla Walla County Department of Health and following guidance from CDC, CMS and our State Department of Health to ensure we are taking every possible precaution.

Additional environmental cleaning took place in areas that the staff member worked and the Walla Walla Veterans Home will conduct enhanced surveillance, including 4-hour symptom and temperature checks, for residents in the affected units for the next 14 days. In addition, residents in affected areas will be tested proactively every 3-7 days until 14 days have passed since the last positive result.

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 will take their temperature at least twice a day and are also 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. This may result in the identification of asymptomatic carriers, but is an important tool in defending against COVID-19.

While the positive result means that we are required to hold on scheduling outdoor booth visits, we are still scheduling window visits and Face Time and Google Duo calls via your cell phones, computers, laptops or iPad. If you would like to schedule a window or Face Time or Google Duo visit, please contact Tonya Williams at 509-394-6809.

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,

Deaon Vincent
Director of Nursing