

Washington State Department of Veterans Affairs News Release



Media Release

September 24, 2020

SPOKANE: We received confirmation that 2 employees at the Spokane Veteran Home were diagnosed with COVID-19, the employees are now self-isolated at home.

The Spokane Veteran Home will conduct enhanced surveillance, including 4-hour symptom and temperature checks, for residents in the affected areas for the next 14 days.

The employees were both wearing appropriate PPE while at work, including a medical procedure mask and eye protection throughout their day.

We realize this news is concerning and we want to reassure residents, staff and family members that we are working closely with the Spokane Health Department and following guidance from CDC, CMS and our State Department of Health to ensure we are taking every possible precaution. We will stay in contact with the employees to ensure they get the care they need.

Additional environmental cleaning took place in areas that the employees worked and throughout the building.

All staff working in resident areas of our State Veterans Homes are wearing medical procedure masks and eye protection and we are asking all 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 Spokane Veteran 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.

We are notifying residents, staff and family representatives via email or letter and a post to the website. We have informed employees of their possible exposure in the workplace but we will maintain confidentiality as required by the Americans with Disabilities Act.

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>. Media inquiries should be addressed to communications@dva.wa.gov.