

Washington State Department of Veterans Affairs News Release



November 5, 2020

ORTING: We received confirmation that an employee at the Washington Soldiers Home, was diagnosed with COVID-19, the employee is now self-isolated at home. We will stay in contact with the employee to ensure they get the care they need.

The employee is an on-call employee that does not work in the skilled nursing facility, their last work day was October 26. The employee, and all other employees they interacted with during their shift, was wearing appropriate PPE. After consultation with the Tacoma-Pierce County Health Department, we have determined that the employee presents a low risk of exposure to residents, so no additional testing of residents is scheduled at this time.

The Soldiers Home continues to follow guidance from the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services regarding regular testing of all employees. Based on COVID-19 positivity rates in Pierce County, the Soldiers Home is conducting this testing on a monthly basis.

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

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.

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 heidia@dva.wa.gov.

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