



STATE OF WASHINGTON
DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS
Walla Walla Veterans Home – 92 Wain Wright, Walla Walla, 99362

November 23, 2020

Dear Walla Walla Veterans Home Family or Representative,

We have received confirmation that two of our employees at the Walla Walla Veterans Home were diagnosed with COVID-19, the employees are now self-isolated at home.

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

Based on the positive test results and positive rates in Walla Walla County, staff will continue to be proactively tested TWICE each week, until CMS guidance recommends moving to monthly testing. The affected neighborhood will be closed to any visitation for the next 14 days.

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. Residents in the affected neighborhoods will be proactively tested.

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.

We are scheduling virtual visits using FaceTime, Facebook Messenger and Google Duo calls via your cell phones, computers, laptops or iPad. If you would like to schedule a window or virtual visit, please contact the recreation team at (509) 394-6890.

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>.

I'd also like to take a moment to introduce you to the Walla Walla Veterans Home Interim Licensed Nursing Home Administrator, Victor Odiakosa. In addition to serving as the Interim Administrator, Victor will serve as my preceptor as I complete an Administrator in Training (AIT) program.

Victor Odiakosa has worked in long-term care for the past fifteen years, with the past nine years spent in administrator and executive director roles. His experience includes leading facilities with skilled nursing, memory care and assisted living communities. Victor started his career in

long term care as a CNA and also worked as a staffing coordinator prior to become a licensed nursing home administrator in 2010.

Victor holds a Masters in Health Care Administration and a Bachelor of Arts in Business and Marketing from the University of Phoenix. He is a licensed nursing home administrator both in Oregon and Washington State. We at the Walla Walla Veterans Home are excited to have him on board!

Sincerely,

Lonna Leno
Designated Interim Administrator