

Washington State Department of Veterans Affairs News Release



July 20, 2020

SPOKANE: We received confirmation that a contract employee at the Spokane Veterans Home was diagnosed with COVID-19, the contract employee is now self-isolated at home.

The Spokane Veterans Home will continue conducting enhanced surveillance, including 4-hour symptom and temperature checks, for residents for the next 14 days.

The contractor works in the Spokane Veterans Home on Saturdays and provides therapy services to residents. The contract employee was wearing appropriate PPE while in the Spokane Veterans Home. Their last day of work in the Spokane Veterans Home was July 11. Contract employees undergo the same screening process as all Spokane Veterans Home employees and on July 11 the contract employee had no symptoms or fever and passed the daily screening. On July 13, they began experiencing symptoms and on July 16 they were tested for COVID-19.

Residents and staff that had direct contact with the contract employee have been tested for COVID-19.

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

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 know that this news is difficult to hear and want to reassure residents, families and staff that we are doing everything within our power to keep them safe and healthy.

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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