

Washington State Department of Veterans Affairs News Release



September 30, 2020

Spokane: Last night, we received confirmation that an employee at the Spokane Veterans Home, was diagnosed with COVID-19, the employee is now self-isolated at home. The employee was asymptomatic and was identified through the regular testing recently required by the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Service. Based on the positive test result and positive rates in Spokane County, staff will continue to be proactively tested each week, until CMS guidance recommends moving to monthly testing.

We are working closely with the Spokane Regional Health District and following guidance from the CDC, CMS and our State Department of Health to ensure we are taking every possible precaution.

The Spokane Veterans Home will conduct enhanced surveillance, including 4-hour symptom and temperature checks, for residents in the affected areas for the next 14 days. In addition, residents will continue to be tested proactively every 3-7 days until 14 days have passed since the last positive result.

The employee was wearing appropriate PPE while at work, including a medical procedure mask and eye protection throughout their day. All staff working in resident areas of our State Veterans Homes are wearing medical procedure masks and eye protection. 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

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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Media Contact

Heidi Audette
Communications and Legislative Director
(360) 791-8966 – cell
heidia@dva.wa.gov