

# Washington State Department of Veterans Affairs News Release



**October 3, 2020**

**Spokane:** Today, one of our Spokane Veterans Home residents was diagnosed with COVID-19. They have been transferred to the Mann-Grandstaff VA Medical Center COVID-19 Unit.

The resident was proactively tested along with all other Veterans Home residents. This was the second round of proactive resident testing since September 24. Residents will be tested every three to seven days until fourteen days have passed since the last positive result. Staff will also continue to be tested each week.

All staff continue to wear procedure masks and eye protection at all times in the nursing care building. We have also notified all residents and staff who may have had close or direct contact. In addition to the proactive testing, the Veterans Home will conduct enhanced surveillance, including four-hour symptom and temperature checks, for all residents for the next fourteen days.

The Spokane Veterans Home has sufficient personal protective equipment and continues to secure more to ensure the safety of our residents and employees. Teams on all three shifts are cleaning surface areas, including frequently touched places like handrails, door handles, touch screens and carts.

We realize this news is concerning and we want to reassure residents, staff and family members that we are working closely with the Spokane Regional Health District and following guidance from Centers for Disease Control, Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services and our State Department of Health to ensure we are taking every possible precaution.

The Spokane Veterans Home is following new guidance from the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services, which requires regular testing of all long-term care facility staff. With increased staff testing, it is possible that additional asymptomatic carriers will be identified.

"I want to acknowledge the incredible work that is being done by our entire Spokane Veterans Home team," said Patrick McNabb, Spokane Veterans Home Administrator. "Our dedicated staff leave their home each day to serve our Veterans and their families with the utmost compassion. I want to personally thank each and every one of them for their perseverance and passion to serve our heroes."

The Spokane Veterans Home is committed to providing the best possible care to our Veterans and their Families and to ensuring our staff members have the tools and resources they need to provide care.

Information is being shared on our website at [www.dva.wa.gov/covid](http://www.dva.wa.gov/covid).

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