

From: [Leno, Lonna \(DVA\)](#)
Subject: Family, Resident, Staff UPDATE 9/23/2021 WWVH
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**STATE OF WASHINGTON
DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS
Walla Walla Veterans Home**

92 Wainwright Drive | Walla Walla, Washington 99362 | 509-394-6800 | 509-527-4199 (fax)

September 23, 2021

Dear Walla Walla Veterans Home Resident, Family or Resident Representative, and Staff Members:

We received confirmation that one WWVH resident was diagnosed with COVID-19 late yesterday. This brings the total to five residents and four staff members diagnosed with COVID-19 since September 10. **Out of an abundance of caution we're adjusting staffing and work shifts to ensure adequate coverage while also not allowing employees who are working in an affected neighborhood to work in or enter any other building on campus.**

We are working closely with the Walla Walla County Department of Community Health and following guidance from them, Centers for Disease Control, Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS), and our State Department of Health to ensure we are continuing to follow the strictest guidance in safeguarding our residents and staff.

We are testing all residents and will continue to screen and monitor for symptoms regularly. Staff are tested twice each week. All staff are screened upon arrival at work each day. This process includes a series of questions around whether symptoms are present, any potential exposures, and a temperature check. In addition, staff are asked to report any symptoms that occur after coming to work. All staff continue to wear PPE in accordance with guidance for nursing home employees.

According to guidance received from the Walla Walla County Department of Community Health, the following steps are to be put in place until 14 days have passed with no additional positive cases:

We will continue the “No Visitors” policy, except for compassionate care visits. Our Activities Department is providing 1:1 and individual opportunities during this time. If you would like to schedule a virtual visit with your loved one, please call 509-394-6800 during regular business hours M-F, and call 509-394-6890 on weekends or after business hours to schedule or leave a message requesting a call back. If you would like to discuss compassionate care visits, please contact WWVH Social Services at 509-394-6816 or 509-394-6821.

I will continue to keep you updated and always welcome your questions, concerns, and ideas.

Respectfully,

Lonna Leno
Administrator
Walla Walla Veterans Home

***NOTE: Our update letters are emailed to the **primacy contact person** (1 person) listed in the medical record for each resident. It is mailed to those we do not have an email address for. Please forward it to any family members you think need the information. The letter is also hand-delivered to residents in the same timeframe it's sent out to families and staff.

