



**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)

May 19, 2022

Dear WWVH Residents, Families, Representatives, and Staff:

This letter is an update on our current COVID-19 outbreak period (4/22 - 5/19). Since my last letter, we've identified 3 more positive staff cases. Although these employees were not in contact with residents during their contagious period, we still report the data as required because transparency is one of the WDVA's guiding principles, and because we highly value your trust. That said, here are the current totals as of 4/22: 2 recovered residents, 1 current positive resident, 8 recovered staff, and 3 current positive staff.

I have received some questions lately regarding the origin of our recent staff cases. In response, I'd like to share that the majority (9 of 11 confirmed so far) were contracted outside the facility, such as during vacations and other time away from work, and were detected prior to the employees' return to the facility.

We are following current guidance from the Walla Walla County Dept. of Community Health, CDC, CMS, and the WA State Dept. of Health. In addition, our dedicated custodians are working seven days a week to ensure clean, disinfected surfaces throughout the facility.

Visitation: Visitation in the currently affected house is temporarily restricted to compassionate care and essential visitors. Families have been notified. No changes to visitation on the rest of campus. Thank you for continuing to screen-in prior to entering any building on campus, for documenting your screening in the appropriate binder as instructed, and for properly wearing a mask at all times during your visits.

Resident Testing: All residents are tested for COVID-19 twice, at 5-day intervals, following the discovery of any new positive case with exposure to the facility.

Employee Screening, Testing, Vaccinations: All WWVH staff are fully vaccinated and are tested 2X/week for COVID-19. In addition, all staff and visitors are screened for symptoms and/or COVID-19 exposures upon arrival to the facility.

In addition to email notifications for families/responsible parties, this information is personally distributed to all residents, and hard copies are mailed to resident representatives who prefer that form of communication. You may access up-to-date WDVA COVID-19 information any time by visiting <https://www.dva.wa.gov/covid>.

Respectfully,

Lonna Leno, Administrator
Walla Walla Veterans Home

Serving Those Who Served