

VAU.S. Department
of Veterans Affairs

VA News Release

COVID-19 Patient Update

For Immediate Release
May 1, 2020**Mann-Grandstaff**
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(Spokane, WA) The Mann-Grandstaff VA Medical Center (MGVAMC) continues to receive and care for COVID-19 positive patients from the WA State Veterans Home in Spokane, with five more patients expected to arrive today.

To date, Mann-Grandstaff VAMC has received more than 30 Veterans and spouses from the state-run long-term care nursing facility in downtown Spokane. Patients are being cared for in a separate, isolated COVID-19 unit – converted from MGVAMC’s Community Living Center and Hospice unit, which are now located inside the main hospital building.

“For the most part, these patients from the State Veterans Home are asymptomatic to mildly symptomatic from the Corona virus and stable, but also elderly and often chronically ill, or already receiving end-of-life care from other health conditions,” explained Dr. Robert J. Fischer, Medical Center Director at Mann-Grandstaff VAMC.

“We share a common mission with the State Veterans Home,” said Dr. Fischer a Veteran himself who added, “as a VA health care facility, we are better equipped and staffed to provide care for these Veterans in need – and separate those patients from the other COVID-19-negative Veterans and staff at the State Veterans Home (SVH).”

Less than a week after welcoming the first cohort of patients from the State Veterans Home, MGVAMC has already had one patient pass-on and transferred one COVID-19 positive patient to a higher level of intensive care at Sacred Heart Medical Center.

“This is consistent with our plan to embrace and care for these COVID-positive patients along with an enhanced level of medical surveillance until such time as a tertiary level of care is required or the patient is cleared to return to the State Veterans Home,” explained Dr. Fischer.

WA State Department of Veterans Affairs began the transfer of its Veteran residents to the federal VA Medical Center on April 24th – following positive coronavirus test results of nearly half of the residents, and several staff at the 100-bed WA State Veterans Home.

In anticipation of a medical surge with partnering health care facilities in Spokane, Mann-Grandstaff VA Medical Center stood up its Hospital Incident Command Team in early March and restricted access to the facility, pausing many face-to-face services and elective procedures, and expanding from 70-beds to more than 140-beds to help fill a critical community need during this pandemic. MGVAMC is also active with the Spokane County Emergency Command Center and consulting regularly with the Spokane Regional Health District and the WA State Dept. of Health.

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