

NEWS RELEASE

Nevada Department of Veterans Services "SERVING NEVADA'S HEROES"

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For Immediate Release June 26, 2020

Northern Nevada State Veterans Home Five Residents and One Employee Test Positive for COVID-19

(Sparks, Nev.) – Five residents and one staff member at the Northern Nevada State Veterans Home (NNSVH) tested positive for COVID-19 this week. These are the first NNSVH residents to test positive; earlier this month, one staff member tested positive for COVID-19.

The NNSVH is conducting weekly tests of all residents and staff in accordance with Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and Health Department guidelines.

"Mirroring what is occurring statewide as Nevada begins to reopen, we are seeing an increase in COVID-19 positive test results at our State Veterans Homes," said NDVS Director Kat Miller. "And while we remain well below the state average for COVID-19 infections at our State Veterans Homes, even one case is one too many. Our dedicated clinical teams are doing everything in their power to protect our veterans and our staff."

According to the Nevada Department of Health and Human Services Office of Analytics, the COVID "Attack Rate" for Nevada Skilled Nursing Facilities is 16.75 percent. The current rate at NNSVH is 6.32 percent. This percentage is calculated by the number of new cases of COVID-19 in the population at risk divided by number of persons in the population at risk.

"Our clinical and support staff is rigorous in their adherence to CDC infection control protocols, in many instances going above and beyond what is required to protect our residents," said NNSVH administrator Mike Ball. "All COVID-19 positive residents are in isolation and the staff members are self-quarantined at home."

All those who tested positive must have two consecutive negative test results before they are released from isolation or return to work. The NNSVH is working with the Nevada Office of Public Health Informatics and Epidemiology to support contact tracing necessary to mitigate the spread of the virus.

Access to the home remains limited to team members and essential vendors only. Additionally, anyone entering the building is required to undergo screening.

Updates on the NNSVH is available by calling (775) 418-5026. The phone line is updated regularly. For more information and resources on Nevada's response to COVID-19, please visit https://nvhealthresponse.nv.gov/.