



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

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For Immediate Release

July 6, 2020

Northern Nevada State Veterans Home
First COVID-19 Related Death of Resident

(Sparks, Nev.) – The Northern Nevada State Veterans Home (NNSVH) has experienced its first COVID-19 related death.

"We are deeply saddened by the passing of this respected Korean War Navy veteran who served our nation with honor and dignity in its hour of need," said Nevada Department of Veterans Services (NDVS) Director Kat Miller. "His passing is a tremendous loss and our hearts go out to family and friends."

The 89-year old, who was under end-of-life care prior to contracting COVID-19 earlier this month, had been moved to the VA hospital where he remained in stable condition until he began to rapidly decline.

With a total of 15 residents and 20 staff members positive for COVID-19, the NNSVH continues to work with local, state and federal partners to bring the outbreak under control.

"Our NNSVH team worked tremendously hard to hold the virus at bay for so long," said Miller. "We know that the number of active coronavirus cases among Department of Veterans Affairs patients nationally tripled in June so the increase locally, while of tremendous concern, is following the national trend."

"With the help of the VA Sierra Nevada Health Care System and the Nevada National Guard, we have increased the frequency of testing to every three days," said NNSVH administrator Mike Ball. "Increasing the testing frequency, helps in many ways. We can identify positive cases earlier, limit possible exposures, and begin therapeutic treatments sooner."

The NNSVH is also 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/>.

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