



WDVA: Protect our veterans – mask, handwash, social distance, stay at home

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Each day that COVID-19 activity remains critically high in this state is a day that puts our residents and employees at our Wisconsin Veterans Homes at risk for contracting this terrible virus. What happens outside our doors affects us. We don't operate in a bubble. Staff need to go out in the community once they leave work. They need to get gas and groceries. They need to pick their kids up from school and childcare. They need to go to their own medical appointments. We also have many residents who are required to leave the building for essential medical and other appointments. Every time they are out in the community, they are at risk and they risk bringing the virus back to our facilities.

Every time an employee tests positive for COVID-19, they are out of the workplace for at least two weeks. In addition, other staff may be out due to injury, non-COVID related illness, or another reason. This has a tremendous impact. Remaining staff must work longer hours to help cover those absences and we have higher costs related to supplementing our staff with staffing agency employees. We have been grateful for staffing assistance provided to us at King (and previously at Union Grove) by the US Department of Veterans Affairs.

Furthermore, when we have coronavirus in our Homes, we are prohibited from admitting new residents. We typically take admissions from hospitals. Our inability to do so now means hospitals are in more of a predicament as their beds continue to fill, but they can't discharge people to nursing homes because of the presence of COVID-19.

We continue to ask everyone to follow the advice of public health officials, doctors, nurses and other health care workers across the state who are asking everyone to stay home as much as possible, wear a mask when out and maintain at least six feet from others, and wash hands frequently. We all need to stay healthy in order to stop the spread of this virus.

Below is some of the data and information you requested. ***I'd like to highlight the fact that King hasn't had a member test positive since last Friday.***

Over the past week we've had 13 member recoveries. In that same time frame, among employees, recoveries are also now beginning to far outpace the new cases of COVID-19 with 10 new cases and 24 recoveries.

One point regarding these numbers: the numbers are not stagnant, but rather a limited snapshot in time. As our census and staffing numbers fluctuate (due to regular nursing home operations) and confirmed positive cases also recover.

Census/Staff (The staff numbers are ballpark, but the census numbers are correct)

- King: 403 residents, 700 staff
- Union Grove: 133 residents, 200 staff
- Chippewa Falls: 70 residents, 120 staff

King

- Current Active COVID-19 Confirmed Positive: 36 (11 residents, 25 employees)
- COVID-related deaths: 36

Union Grove

- Current Active COVID-19 Confirmed Positive: 10 (4 residents, 6 employees)
- COVID-related deaths: 10

Chippewa Falls

- Current Active COVID-19 Confirmed Positive: 5 (5 employees)
- COVID-related deaths: 1

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