



## **COVID-19 Procedures Veterans Housing and Recovery Program**

The safety, health, and wellbeing of veterans who participate in the Veteran Housing and Recovery Program (VHRP) and reside in the program's transitional housing remains a top priority for the Wisconsin Department of Veterans Affairs (WDVA). To prevent and slow the spread of COVID-19 at these locations, WDVA has implemented the following comprehensive strategy.

### **Testing of Residents**

All new VHRP residents are tested for COVID-19 and quarantined until their results are received. Any resident who has tested negative for COVID-19 within 48 hours may be admitted without quarantine. Tests done more than 48 hours in advance of admission will require a new test before intake.

In addition, testing of residents and staff is conducted bi-weekly. Any resident who tests positive is placed in quarantine. If a new confirmed case is identified at the site, testing of all previously negative or untested residents should be repeated every week and continue weekly until no new cases are identified and at least 14 days have passed since the most recent positive test at the site.

### **Testing of Staff**

If a staff member has a temperature of more than 99.0 or has had close contact with, or exposure to, an individual confirmed to have COVID-19, the staff member will be tested and quarantined as soon as possible to reduce the risk of workplace transmission. Staff self-monitor their temperature daily and watch for symptoms.

### **Screening All Persons for Fever and COVID-19 Symptoms**

All building vendors and staff must wear a mask and have their temperature taken upon entry. Individuals with detected temperatures over 99.0 will not be permitted into the building. Residents also have their temperatures taken daily. Residents and staff are asked daily if they have any COVID-19 symptoms.

### **Placement in Isolation or Quarantine**

Residents who are symptomatic or test positive for COVID-19 will be quarantined in individual rooms and will use a restroom designated for individual use that will be cleaned after every use. Separate meals will be provided, and symptoms monitored. Masks must be worn whenever leaving the room. If a resident is quarantined to a designated hotel, the resident will be monitored via phone-in calls with their case manager or site director, and temperature and symptom checks will be conducted daily.

### **PPE for Residents and Staff**

Masks are always worn by residents and staff, except when eating meals. Gloves are worn when performing breathalyzer and temperature checks. Sneeze guards are present on all staff desks, common areas, kitchen serving areas, and in VHRP transportation vehicles. Staff and residents practice social distancing, wash hands regularly, and use hand sanitizer provided throughout the building.

**Cleaning**

Cleaning and sanitizing are done regularly. A deep sprayer atomizer is used to sanitize common areas and resident rooms are disinfected upon graduation. Professional deep cleanings are scheduled as needed.

**Social Distancing**

Residents and staff practice social distancing by keeping six feet apart wherever possible. Masks are always required, except when eating meals. As needed, meals are split into shifts to ensure adequate space for social distancing while eating. Residents have individual rooms at the Green Bay site. When enough rooms are available, residents are provided individual rooms at the Chippewa Falls and Union Grove sites.

**Resident Leave Passes**

If a resident is offsite less than 24 hours, they are not required to quarantine. If a resident is offsite 24 hours, they will be quarantined.