



TENNESSEE STATE VETERANS' HOMES
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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Tennessee State Veterans' Homes Confirms Positive Cases of COVID-19

MURFREESBORO – Tennessee State Veterans' Homes (TSVH) has announced that four staff members and two residents at the Brigadier General Wendell H. Gilbert Tennessee State Veterans' Home in Clarksville have tested positive for COVID-19. Additionally, one staff member at the W.D. Bill Manning State Veterans' Home in Humboldt and two staff members at the Tennessee Veterans' Home in Murfreesboro have also tested positive. TSVH leadership and staff took immediate action to ensure the positive staff members were sent home to quarantine and resident family members were contacted. Of the seven staff members who tested positive, all are asymptomatic.

Currently all residents and staff are being tested and will continue to be monitored daily for symptoms. Staff will also continue to wear proper Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) when inside the building and when providing resident care.

"We are deeply concerned for the affected resident and staff members", said TSVH Executive Director Ed Harries. "Our dedicated team is working tirelessly to do everything in our power to prevent this aggressive virus from spreading throughout our Homes. Our highest priority is keeping our residents and staff members safe and all possible resources are being made available to support them."

Currently there are no positive cases confirmed at the Ben Atchley State Veterans' Home in Knoxville. The results come after TSVH began mandatory weekly testing of all staff members on July 6, 2020. Previous testing indicated residents and staff at all four Tennessee State Veterans' Homes and corporate offices were negative for COVID-19.

Tennessee State Veterans' Homes regularly practice well-established infectious disease protocols. Since the global outbreak of the novel coronavirus, the TSVH leadership and clinical teams have been monitoring the situation daily and continuously updating the Infection Control and Occupational Health policies. After the first COVID-19 cases were confirmed in Tennessee, TSVH implemented a preparedness plan and announced extensive precautionary measures to keep residents and staff safe. All four Homes closed to visitors and non-essential vendors on March 13, 2020.

TSVH is working closely with state health officials and following CDC, CMS, and Tennessee Department of Health guidelines to ensure all steps are being taken to keep the virus contained. TSVH asks that you respect the privacy of residents and families, as well as staff as they perform critical work in helping protect those who in their care. Out of consideration for the families and confidentiality required by HIPAA, TSVH will not be releasing any names or other personal information.

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