



COVID-19 Agency Update
July 17, 2020

The Department of Veterans Affairs (DVA) Healthcare Center (HCC) has no Veteran Patients in the HCC Isolation Recovery Unit and no additional Veteran Patients have tested positive for COVID-19 in two months. In the DVA Residential Facility, we completed 100% testing of each Residential wing last month with only one out of one hundred and twenty Veteran Residents testing positive for COVID-19 in the month of June. This Veteran remained asymptomatic, recovered in the Residential Isolation Recovery Unit and was released after two negative tests for the virus. We continue regular screenings of Veteran Residents and have scheduled a broad one-day point prevalence test of all Veteran Residents for July 21st as part of our ongoing efforts to mitigate the potential spread of the virus.

I am pleased to report that the DVA admitted three new Veterans to our Healthcare Center and two new Veterans to the Residential program this week. This demonstrates that we can successfully and safely admit Veteran Patients and Residents by adhering to our COVID-19 mitigation procedures thereby ensuring uninterrupted access to these essential DVA programs and services during the current and potential future pandemics.

To date, the DVA has tested two hundred and twenty-eight Veteran Residents and Patients (most tested multiple times) for COVID-19 with twenty-five testing positive. Of the twenty-five Veteran Residents and Patients who tested positive, twenty-two recovered from the virus. One Veteran Resident and two Veteran Patients passed away in late April and early May due to COVID-19 complications. Four DVA staff members tested positive for COVID-19 and all have recovered and returned to work with no staff members testing positive for the virus in two months.

On July 9th and July 16th the DVA conducted COVID-19 testing of all direct caregivers and front line staff who work in the Healthcare Center and Residential Facility with 100% compliance of all Healthcare staff including testing off site for staff not able to be tested at the Campus. All tests from July 9th were negative for the virus and we will report the results of the July 16th testing when they are available. Should any staff test positive, the DVA will follow all applicable protocols.

We continue regular screening of staff and Veterans and adherence to the DVA Enhanced Safety and Health COVID-19 Protocols and modifications thereto which are available, along with other important information, at: <https://portal.ct.gov/DVA/Pages/DVA-COVID-19-Updates>.