



## **DVA COVID-19 Update: April 29, 2022**

The DVA Healthcare Center (HCC) has no COVID-19 positive Veteran Patients in HCC COVID Isolation after two Veteran patients were recently clinically cleared to return to their regular rooms. All Veteran Patients tested negative for COVID-19 twice this week. There is one Veteran Patient in clinically directed protective isolation for COVID-19 monitoring purposes after returning from community based acute care. The HCC staff continues the fight against COVID while delivering all other regular direct care to sustain the highest quality of life for our Veteran Patients. The DVA will maintain regular COVID-19 testing and broad infectious disease control procedures in the HCC until further notice which includes, distancing/barriers and heightened cleaning procedures. Pursuant to the Governor's recent Executive Order (14F), no visitors are permitted entry to the HCC unless they are either: (1) fully vaccinated, (2) show proof of a negative COVID test within the previous 48 hours, or (3) submit to rapid COVID testing at the HCC.

The DVA Residential Facility had its first COVID-19 positive Veteran Resident in nearly four months last week. This Veteran was placed in COVID isolation and is recovering with the expectation to be clinically cleared to return to the Veteran's regular room in the next few days. There are no Veteran Residents in self-isolation due to contact tracing nor due to clinical risk assessments. The DVA continues with monthly testing for all Veteran Residents with the next such testing scheduled for May 10th. Based on the very low number of COVID cases among DVA Staff and Veteran Residents in the Residential Program over the past four months, there is no face mask requirements in the Residential Facility and all regular on and off Campus recreational and therapeutic activities are phased back to regular status including sporting events, shopping trips, movies, community-based events, and group activities.

Since the Pandemic began, the DVA has provided direct care for 282 Veteran Residents and Veteran Patients at our campus of which 130 tested or retested positive for COVID-19. Of those testing positive, 124 recovered from the virus. One Veteran Resident and three Veteran Patients passed away in 2020 due to COVID-19, and one Veteran Patient passed away in January 2021 from COVID-19 complications. One Veteran Patient with COVID-19 passed away in December 2020 from a non-COVID-19 medical occurrence.

Of the 147 DVA staff members contracting or re-contracting COVID-19 since the beginning of the pandemic, 145 have recovered and returned to work and two are recovering at home and expect to be clinically cleared to return to work in the next few days. The DVA vaccine rate for staff is 88% having received a first COVID vaccine dose and 80% being fully vaccinated with 72% receiving a booster vaccine (fluctuations in vaccination rates are due to new staff pending vaccinations). On-Campus Vaccine clinics continue providing COVID-19 and Flu vaccines to Veteran Patients and Residents, with 99% vaccinated for COVID and 96% of patients vaccinated for the Flu.

Pursuant to Department of Administrative Services (DAS) directives and internal DVA policy updates, face masking is no longer required in state buildings on the DVA campus except for the Healthcare Center where masking is required for all staff, Veterans, and visitors until further notice pursuant to Department of Public Health and CMS requirements and best practices.

The current DVA COVID-19 Mitigation Protocols, previous COVID-19 weekly updates and other information is available at: <https://portal.ct.gov/DVA/Pages/DVA-COVID-19-Updates>.