



**STATE OF CONNECTICUT**  
DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS  
OFFICE OF THE COMMISSIONER  
287 West Street  
Rocky Hill, CT 06067



*Thomas J. Saadi*  
*Commissioner*

**DVA COVID-19 Update: February 11, 2021**

This is the first week since late November 2021 that there are no COVID-19 positive Veteran Patients or Veteran Residents at the Department of Veterans Affairs (DVA) Campus in Rocky Hill and we have not had a DVA staff member test positive for the virus in three weeks.

The Healthcare Center (HCC) has no COVID-19 positive Veteran Patients in the HCC Isolation Unit after a Veteran Patient recently recovered from COVID-19 and was released from the Isolation Unit. Five Veteran Patients are in self-isolation for monitoring as they recently returned from acute care or other community based healthcare facilities or were recently admitted to the HCC. These Veterans have tested negative for the virus but are in Self-Isolation out of an abundance of caution until clinically cleared for release. The HCC continues weekly testing of all Veteran Patients and both last week and this week all Veteran Patients, outside the Isolation Unit, tested negative for the virus.

The DVA Residential Facility had no new cases of COVID-19 Veteran Residents in more than a month and there are no Veteran Residents in either the COVID-19 positive section of the Isolation Unit or the protective monitoring Non-COVID section of the Isolation Unit. The DVA continues testing of all Residential Veterans twice per month with additional testing of Veteran Vocational Therapeutic Program participants. To date the DVA has tested two hundred and forty Veteran Residents and Patients (most multiple times) for COVID-19 with sixty-nine testing positive or retesting positive since March 2020. Of those testing positive, sixty-three recovered from the virus. One Veteran Resident and two Veteran Patients passed away in the spring due to COVID-19 and two Veteran Patients passed away in December and January from COVID-19 complications. One Veteran Patient with COVID-19 passed away in December from a non-COVID-19 related medical occurrence.

A total of fifty-seven DVA staff members tested positive for COVID-19 since the beginning of the pandemic. Fifty-six staff members have recovered and returned to work with only one remaining to recover and be cleared to return to work consistent with CDC and DPH guidelines. The DVA continues weekly COVID-19 testing of direct care and front-line staff all of whom tested negative for the virus for a third consecutive week. This testing will continue until further notice.

The DVA continues vaccination clinics with ninety percent of our Veteran Residents and Patients and one-hundred and twenty-eight of our DVA Healthcare and other direct care providers vaccinated to date. The DVA continues working with state agencies and community based non-profit healthcare providers to expand vaccination capacity through the training of vaccinators and the possibility of establishing a mass-vaccination site at the DVA Campus in Rocky Hill.

The DVA staff, with the support of our Federal VA partners and other state agencies continue the hard work of meeting and overcoming the challenges of this pandemic in order to keep Veterans and staff safe. The DVA COVID-19 Mitigation Protocols, previous COVID-19 weekly updates and other important information is available at: <https://portal.ct.gov/DVA/Pages/DVA-COVID-19-Updates>.