



STATE OF CONNECTICUT
DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS
OFFICE OF THE COMMISSIONER
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Thomas J. Saadi
Commissioner

DVA COVID-19 Update: January 22, 2021

The Department of Veterans Affairs (DVA) Healthcare Center (HCC) had no new cases of COVID-19 positive Veteran Patients in the previous three weeks. The last COVID positive Veteran Patient is being discharged from the Isolation and Recovery Unit tomorrow and one COVID positive Veteran Patient recently returned from acute care. There are no Veteran Patients at state COVID-19 Receiving Nursing Facilities (CRF). Three Veteran Patients are in self-isolation for monitoring as they recently returned from acute care facilities. These Veterans have tested negative for the virus but are in the self-Isolation Unit out of an abundance of caution until clinically cleared for release. The HCC continues weekly testing of all Veteran Patients 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 the past three weeks and after two Veteran Residents were clinically cleared for release, there are no Veteran Residents remaining in the COVID-19 positive section of the Isolation Unit nor in 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 thirty-nine Veteran Residents and Patients (most multiple times) for COVID-19 with sixty-eight testing positive or retesting positive since March 2020. Of those testing positive, sixty-two 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 last month from a non-COVID-19 related medical occurrence.

The DVA continues weekly COVID testing of direct care and front-line staff, which will continue until further notice. A total of fifty-five staff members tested positive for COVID-19 since the beginning of the pandemic. Fifty-one DVA staff members have recovered and returned to work and four are in various stages of home isolation or clinical care until cleared to return to work consistent with CDC and DPH guidelines.

The DVA continues a rigorous approach to vaccinations having administered vaccines to eighty percent of our Veteran Residents and Patients and to one-hundred and twenty-three of our DVA Healthcare and other direct care providers. We have additional vaccine clinics scheduled for Veterans and Staff over the next few weeks with a focus on establishing “herd immunity” among our Veterans and staff.

The DVA staff, with the support of our Federal VA partners and other state agencies, are doing an amazing job 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>.