



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: January 8, 2020

The Department of Veterans Affairs (DVA) Healthcare Center (HCC) had no new cases of a COVID-19 positive Veteran Patients since last week and, after several Veterans were cleared for release, only one COVID positive Veteran Patient is in the Isolation and Recovery Unit. All Veteran Patients who were temporarily at state COVID-19 Receiving Nursing Facilities (CRF) due to the HCC COVID-19 positive Isolation Unit reaching capacity, have returned to the HCC after recovering from the virus. One Veteran Patient is in self-isolation for protective monitoring. Veterans in self-isolation for protective monitoring are either new admissions, patients who returned from acute care or contact tracers who tested negative for the virus and remain in the Isolation Unit until clinically cleared for release. The HCC continues weekly testing of all Veteran Patients and this week all Veteran Patients, outside the Isolation Unit, twice tested negative for the virus.

The DVA Residential Facility had one Veteran Resident test COVID-19 positive in the past week, and there are currently four Veteran Residents in the COVID-19 positive section of the Isolation Unit and four Veteran Residents in the Non-COVID section of the Isolation Unit for protective monitoring. Veterans in non-COVID-19 Isolation/Quarantine are either new admissions, patients who recently returned from acute care or contact tracers who have tested negative for the virus and remain in the Isolation Unit until cleared by clinical staff for release to their regular rooms. The DVA continues regular 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, fifty-seven recovered (a first or second time) from the virus, five are currently in the Residential and HCC COVID-19 Isolation Units, none remain at designated COVID-19 Receiving Nursing Facilities and one is in acute care. One Veteran Resident and two Veteran Patients passed away in the spring due to COVID-19 and two Veteran Patients passed away over the previous several weeks from COVID-19 complications. One Veteran Patient with COVID-19 passed away last month from a possible non-COVID-19 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-four staff members tested positive for COVID-19 since the beginning of the pandemic. Forty-six DVA staff members have recovered and returned to work and eight are in various stages of home isolation or clinical care until cleared to return to work consistent with CDC and DPH guidelines.

Last month the DVA took a big step forward in battling COVID-19 with the vaccinating of seventy-six of our DVA Healthcare and other direct care providers and fifty-six Veteran Patients. Earlier this week we vaccinated eighty-two of our Veteran Residents. The staff and Veterans who received their first dose will receive their second dose on January 13th and January 28th respectively while we continue efforts to vaccinate the remaining DVA staff members.

The DVA COVID-19 Protocols with most recent changes, DVA COVID-19 weekly updates and other important information is available at: <https://portal.ct.gov/DVA/Pages/DVA-COVID-19-Updates>.