



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

COVID-19 Agency Update
September 18, 2020

The Department of Veterans Affairs (DVA) Healthcare Center (HCC) has no COVID-19 positive Veteran Patients in its Isolation and Recovery Unit and there have been no new Veteran Patients testing positive for COVID-19 in several months. There are five Veteran Patients in the HCC Isolation Unit, all of whom have tested negative for the virus, however as they are new admissions or patients who recently returned from an acute care facility, they will remain in the Isolation Unit until cleared by clinical staff for release after additional COVID-19 tests and monitoring.

The DVA Residential Facility has no COVID-19 positive Veteran Residents in its Isolation Recovery Unit and no new Veteran Residents have tested positive for COVID-19 in more than three months. The DVA Residential Facility completed two rounds of COVID-19 testing of all Residential Veterans on July 21st and September 9th with all Veterans testing negative for COVID-19 on both occasions. The next one day testing of all Veteran Residents is scheduled for October 14th. This approach, known as “Point Prevalence Testing”, is one of the many protocols the DVA has implemented to mitigate the potential spread of COVID-19. Also, every Thursday since July 9th, the DVA has conducted COVID-19 testing of all direct care and front-line staff with one asymptomatic HCC staff member testing positive one month ago. This person has since recovered and tested negative and returned to work. Testing of DVA staff will continue weekly until further notice to mitigate the potential spread of the virus. The DVA Veteran and staff testing results to date, along with the DVA’s response to any positive tests, demonstrate that our COVID-19 mitigation protocols, including wearing masks, screening and ongoing testing are keeping our Veterans and staff safe.

To date the DVA has tested over two hundred and thirty-two Veteran Residents and Patients (most tested multiple times) for COVID-19 with twenty-five testing positive, most of these were early in the pandemic. 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. Six staff members have tested positive for COVID-19 since the beginning of the pandemic, with all recovering and returning to work consistent with CDC and DPH return to work guidelines.

The Healthcare and Residential admission processes are working very well and we encourage you to share information about these two programs with Veterans who may benefit from them, for more information visit: <https://portal.ct.gov/DVA/Pages/Residential-and-Healthcare-Programs>.

The DVA continues adherence to our 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>.