



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



*Thomas J. Saadi*  
*Commissioner*

**COVID-19 Agency**  
**Update April 25, 2020**

Today the Department of Veterans Affairs (DVA) held a memorial service at our Rocky Hill campus for two Veterans who passed due to COVID-19 complications. One of these Veterans was in our Residential Program and passed while in a community based Hospital. The second Veteran had transitioned out of our Residential Program to community based housing last fall. The ceremony, which was social distancing compliant, was both somber and uplifting including personal testimonials by their fellow Veterans. As we continue to face the COVID-19 pandemic, let us keep the memory of these fallen Veterans and all those who have been taken from us by this pandemic in our hearts and minds.

To date, the DVA Healthcare Center has had no COVID-19 positive Veteran Patients, and there have been no new COVID-19 cases in the DVA Residential Program for the previous eight days. There are currently two Veteran Residents who tested COVID-19 positive and are being cared for in our Isolation Unit at our Rocky Hill Campus. Today, one Veteran Resident was transferred from our Isolation Unit to a community based hospital due to an increase in the severity of his COVID-19 symptoms. One additional Veteran Resident is currently being treated for COVID-19 related complications in a community based hospital and three Veteran Residents, who recovered from COVID-19, are in physical therapy/rehabilitation programs. Over the prior two weeks, a total of ten Veteran Residents have recovered from COVID-19, with six released from the DVA Isolation Unit, and three transferred from acute care to community based physical therapy/rehabilitation programs.

Today the DVA confirmed that a staff member tested positive for COVID-19, however this individual had not worked on Campus for at least a week prior to showing signs or symptoms of the virus. As such, we are confident that this individual contracted the virus outside of the DVA's Campus thus, the risk of exposure of DVA Veterans and staff to the virus by this individual is minimal. We will continue rigorous daily screenings of all Veterans and Staff for signs and symptoms of COVID-19 including temperature checks. DVA Staff continue to follow the DVA Enhanced Safety and Health COVID-19 Protocols which are reviewed daily and adjusted based on CDC and Public Health updated directives, guidance and best practices.

The COVID-19 Health and Safety protocols are available, along with other important information, at: <https://portal.ct.gov/DVA/Pages/DVA-COVID-19-Updates>.