



COVID-19 Agency Update
July 10, 2020

The Department of Veterans Affairs (DVA) Healthcare Center (HCC) has no Veteran Patients in the HCC Isolation Recovery Unit and no additional Veteran Patients have tested positive for COVID-19 in nearly seven weeks. In the DVA Residential Facility, we completed 100% testing of each Residential wing last month with only one out of one hundred and twenty Veteran Residents testing positive for COVID-19 in the month of June. This Veteran remained asymptomatic, recovered in the Residential Isolation Recovery Unit and was released after two negative tests for the virus. We continue regular screenings of Veteran Residents and have scheduled a broad one-day point prevalence test of all Veteran Residents for July 21st as part of our ongoing efforts to mitigate the potential spread of the virus.

To date, the DVA has tested two hundred and twenty-three Veteran Residents and Patients (most tested multiple times) for COVID-19 with twenty-five testing positive. Of the twenty-five Veteran Residents and Patients who tested positive, twenty-two have recovered from the virus. One Veteran Resident and two Veteran Patients passed away in late April and early May due to COVID-19 complications. Four DVA staff members tested positive for COVID-19 and all have recovered and returned to work with no staff members testing positive for the virus in two months.

On Thursday July 9th, the DVA conducted COVID-19 testing of all direct caregivers and front line staff who work in the Healthcare Center and Residential Facility. I am very pleased to report that we had 100% compliance by all Healthcare staff including two who were tested at off site locations today. The results will be reported as soon as they are available and should any staff test positive, the DVA will follow all applicable protocols. This broad point prevalence testing, the first to be conducted by a state agency, will continue each week for at least three weeks in our continued effort to mitigate the risks of COVID-19 at our Campus.

We maintain regular screening of staff and Veterans and adherence to the DVA Enhanced Safety and Health 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>.