



**COVID-19 Agency Update**  
**July 2, 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 single Veteran, who 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 to mitigate the potential spread of the virus. One of our Veteran Residents who recovered from COVID-19 is in a community based physical therapy/rehabilitation program and a second is receiving in-home rehabilitative care with his family.

To date, the DVA has tested two hundred and twenty-two 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 seven weeks.

We have begun work on a long-term COVID-19 Isolation and Recovery Unit (IRU) in the Residential Facility which is possible through the upgrading of a previously vacated residential wing. This will allow DVA to move forward with the previously planned expansion of the successful Semi-Private Living Program to Residential D-wing which has served as the temporary Isolation Recovery Unit since March of this year. The standing up of a long-term IRU and implementation of additional infectious disease mitigation protocols in the Healthcare Center will assist DVA in the event we encounter another wave of COVID-19 in Connecticut and therefore not have to suspend admissions to the Residential Program or to our Healthcare Center. It is important that we keep these programs open to Veterans in need, especially when there is a public health emergency.

The DVA will conduct COVID-19 testing of all of our direct caregivers and front line staff next week and each week thereafter for three weeks. We will also 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>.

The DVA Team wishes our Veterans, their families and all Connecticut residents a safe and Happy 4<sup>th</sup> of July!