



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

COVID-19 Agency Update
June 11, 2020

The Department of Veterans Affairs (DVA) Healthcare Center (HCC) has no Veteran Patients in the HCC Isolation Unit and no additional Veteran Patients have tested positive for COVID-19 in just over one month. Today, we received the COVID-19 testing results for each Veteran Patient in the HCC who all tested negative for the virus.

There are no Veteran Residents in the Residential Isolation Unit and the Residential Facility has not had a new COVID-19 case in nearly one month. This success is due to the ongoing hard work of the DVA Staff, the cooperation of our Veteran Residents and the support of our state and federal partners. Two Veteran Residents who recovered from COVID-19 remain in community based physical therapy/rehabilitation programs however, we are working with those facilities to move these Veterans to home care and skilled nursing care as applicable to their current clinical conditions.

To date, the DVA has tested two hundred and nineteen Veteran Residents and Patients (with most tested multiple times) for COVID-19 with twenty-four Veterans testing positive. Of the twenty-four Veteran Residents and Patients who tested positive to date, twenty-one have recovered from the virus. One Veteran Resident and two Veteran Patients with serious pre-existing medical conditions have passed away due to COVID-19. Four DVA staff members have tested positive for COVID-19, all of whom have recovered and returned to work.

We continue wing by wing testing in the Residential Facility through the remainder of this month and over the next week additional lifting of the remaining travel and some other restrictions will be lifted across the agency's core function areas.

The DVA encourages all eligible staff to take advantage of available COVID-19 offsite testing until we finalize the plan with the Office of the State Comptroller program for regular onsite testing of staff. DVA continues daily screenings 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>.