



**COVID-19 Agency Update**  
**June 12, 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 more than one month. This week the HCC conducted a second round of COVID-19 testing of all Veteran Patients, with the prior round of testing taking place two weeks ago. All Veteran Patients in the HCC again 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. One Veteran Resident who recovered from COVID-19 remains in community based physical therapy/rehabilitation program and a second Veteran Resident who recovered from the virus transferred this week from a rehabilitation facility to in-home care with his family.

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 testing positive. Of the twenty-four Veteran Residents and Patients who tested positive, twenty-one have recovered from the virus. One Veteran Resident and two Veteran Patients with serious pre-existing medical conditions passed away due to COVID-19. Four DVA staff members have tested positive for COVID-19 and all have recovered and returned to work.

Throughout the pandemic the majority of DVA regular operations continued including the hiring of new staff with ten new employees reporting for work in the last two weeks. We also moved forward with a large ADA project on Campus and are implementing improvements to our water system. Plans to expand the Residential Semi-Private Living program are being updated and will not only offer Veteran Residents greater personal privacy but also a safer living environment during a pandemic with increased living space, privacy walls and less crowding in lavatories.

We continue wing by wing testing in the Residential Facility through the remainder of this month and next week additional COVID-19 restrictions will be lifted across 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>.