



COVID-19 Agency Update
June 15, 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 five weeks. One Veteran Patient, who previously tested positive for COVID-19, did re-test positive for the virus over the weekend after being transferred to a community based hospital for non-COVID acute care, where he currently remains.

There are no Veteran Residents in the Residential Isolation Recovery Unit and the Residential Facility has not had a new COVID-19 case in one month. One Veteran Resident who recovered from COVID-19 remains in a community based physical therapy/rehabilitation program and a second Veteran Resident who recovered from the virus is currently receiving rehabilitative care in-home with his family.

To date, the DVA has tested two hundred and twenty 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 recovered from the virus and one Veteran Patient re-tested positive. 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. No DVA staff members have tested positive for the virus in a month.

The DVA is updating plans to expand the Residential Semi-Private Living which will offer more Veteran Residents greater personal privacy and a safer living environment during future pandemics, should they occur, with increased living space, privacy walls and less crowding in lavatories. The DVA is also developing plans to provide Veteran Residents with a safe, livable and updated COVID/infectious disease Isolation Recovery Unit (IRU) in the long-term to replace the current temporary IRU.

We will continue wing by wing testing in the Residential Facility through the remainder of this month while additional COVID-19 restrictions are lifted across agency core function areas. The DVA encourages eligible staff to take advantage of available COVID-19 offsite testing as we finalize plans for regular onsite testing of staff. The 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>.