



COVID-19 Agency Update
June 30, 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 six weeks. One Veteran Patient, who previously tested positive for COVID-19, did re-test positive for the virus two weeks ago and has since recovered and returned to the HCC from a community based hospital where he was receiving non-COVID-19 acute care.

In the DVA Residential Facility, we completed 100% testing of each Residential wing last week with only one out of one hundred and twenty Veteran Residents testing positive for COVID-19 in the month of June. This single Veteran was relocated to the Residential Isolation Recovery Unit and remained asymptomatic and after testing negative for the virus twice last week he has been released from the Isolation Unit. 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 six weeks.

We are moving forward with plans for a long-term COVID Isolation and Recovery Unit in the Residential Facility by upgrading a previously vacated residential wing. This will allow for 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 DVA will be conducting COVID-19 point 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>.