



COVID-19 Agency Update
June 5, 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 the past month.

Yesterday, two Veteran Residents were released from the Residential Facility Isolation Unit who recovered from COVID-19 and recently tested negative twice for the virus. Three Veteran Residents, also COVID-19 negative, remain in the Isolation Unit for protective monitoring, two of whom returned yesterday to the DVA from community based care facilities. These Veteran Residents are scheduled for release from the Isolation Unit pending a subsequent negative test result. There are two Veteran Residents who recovered from COVID-19 that remain in community based physical therapy/rehabilitation programs. DVA Residential staff is working with these community based facilities to reintegrate the Veterans to the DVA or to a higher level of clinical care as may be needed. The Residential Facility has not had a new COVID-19 case in the past three weeks.

To date, the DVA has tested two hundred and sixteen Veteran Residents and Patients (many 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 as travel and other restrictions are lifted across the agency's core function areas. This ongoing testing will allow for rapid determination as to whether reimplementations of certain COVID-19 mitigation measures are needed to protect the health, safety and welfare of Veterans and Staff.

The DVA encourages all eligible staff to take advantage of available COVID-19 offsite testing as we work with the Office of the State Comptroller to finalize a 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>.