



COVID-19 Agency Update **June 9, 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. This week we are retesting every Veteran Patient in the HCC consistent with the State Department of Public Health's increased COVID-19 mitigation rules of skilled nursing facilities.

Today, two Veteran Residents were released from the Residential Facility Isolation Unit after recovering from COVID-19 and testing negative twice for the virus. With the release of these two Veterans there are no Veteran Residents or Veteran Patients in either of the DVA's Isolation Units for the first time since March 27th. This success is due to the 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. The Residential Facility has not had a new COVID-19 case in more than three weeks.

To date, the DVA has tested two hundred and eighteen 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 many restrictions are lifted across the agency's core function areas. This testing will allow for rapid determination as to whether reimplementing 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>.