



**COVID-19 Agency Update**  
**May 1, 2020**

The Department of Veterans Affairs (DVA) Healthcare Center (HCC) currently has four Veteran Patients who tested COVID-19 positive earlier this week and are in our HCC Isolation Unit. No additional Veteran Patients have tested positive for three days. Today a Veteran Patient, with underlying high risk medical conditions, who was transferred to the Federal VA Medical Center at West Haven, returned to the HCC after testing negative for the virus.

The DVA Residential Program had one Veteran Resident test positive for the virus four days ago, which is the only positive test in the Residential Program during the previous fifteen days. There is currently one Veteran Resident in our Residential Facility Isolation Unit who is COVID-19 positive. Two other Veteran Residents, identified through screening and contact tracing, who both tested negative for the virus, are in the Isolation Unit for monitoring and are scheduled for release consistent with CDC guidelines. One Veteran Resident is in a community based hospital for COVID-19 related complications. Four Veteran Residents, who recovered from COVID-19, remain in physical therapy/rehabilitation programs.

To date, the DVA has tested eighty individual Veteran Residents and Patients (some tested multiple times) for COVID-19 with a total of twenty testing positive for the virus of which, eleven have recovered and seven are currently in the HCC and Residential Isolation Units on our Campus. One Veteran remains in a community based hospital and one Veteran Resident passed away last week while in a community based hospital.

During this pandemic the DVA continues to develop social distancing compliant recreation and wellness activities including the DVA Residential "Walk for Wellness Individual Steps Competition" with our four top Veterans walking a combined 151,744 steps over four days. The next Walk for Wellness Individual Steps Competition runs from May 4<sup>th</sup> through May 7<sup>th</sup>.

In addition to the DVA's rigorous COVID-19 signs and symptoms screening process and expanded testing regime, we continue to follow the DVA Enhanced Safety and Health COVID-19 Protocols which are reviewed daily and adjusted based on CDC and Public Health directives, guidance and best practices. The DVA COVID-19 Health and Safety protocols are available, along with other important information, at: <https://portal.ct.gov/DVA/Pages/DVA-COVID-19-Updates>.