



COVID-19 Agency Update
May 10, 2020

As part of its enhanced work to protect the health of state residents during this pandemic, the State Department of Public Health (DPH) is repeatedly inspecting every skilled nursing facility in the State. Today, the Department of Veterans Affairs (DVA) Healthcare Center (HCC) had its second unannounced DPH inspection which included two Medics from the CT Army National Guard. The team inspected, among other things, the HCC COVID-19 Isolation Unit, Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) inventory controls, food service delivery, laundry and housekeeping services, and infection control practices. I am pleased to report that no deficiencies were identified during either visit and the DVA Team was commended on its adherence to best practices pursuant to licensure and COVID-19 mitigation efforts.

The DVA continues to care for Veterans infected with the COVID-19 virus and sadly this deadly virus took one of our Veteran Patients from us early this morning. With the passing of this Veteran, there are currently two Veteran Patients in the HCC COVID-19 Isolation Unit both of whom are symptomatic with serious underlying pre-existing medical conditions. No additional Veteran Patients have presented with COVID-19 symptoms in the past seven days. One Veteran Patient transferred from the HCC Isolation Unit to an acute care community hospital due to COVID-19 complications on May 4th and remains in serious condition.

There are currently three Veteran Residents in the Residential Facility Isolation Unit and one Veteran Resident is being treated in a critical care unit at a community based hospital for COVID-19 related complications. Four Veteran Residents, who recovered from COVID-19, remain in physical therapy/rehabilitation programs with two expected to return to the Residential program soon. The DVA Residential Program plans to conduct another broad testing of Veteran Residents on Monday May 11th.

To date, the DVA has tested one-hundred and fourteen individual Veteran Residents and Patients (many tested multiple times) for COVID-19 with twenty-three testing positive of which, thirteen have recovered and five are currently in the HCC and Residential Isolation Units on our Campus. Two Veterans are in community based hospitals, one Veteran Resident passed away two weeks ago in a community based hospital and two Veteran Patients with COVID-19 and serious underlying medical conditions passed away during the previous three days. To date, four DVA staff members have tested positive for COVID-19 and are on leave until cleared to return consistent with CDC guidelines.

The DVA continues daily screening procedures for staff and Veterans and adherence to the DVA Enhanced Safety and Health COVID-19 Protocols which are available, along with other important information, at: <https://portal.ct.gov/DVA/Pages/DVA-COVID-19-Updates>