



COVID-19 Agency Update
May 17, 2020

The Department of Veterans Affairs (DVA) Healthcare Center (HCC) currently has three COVID-19 positive Veteran Patients in the HCC Isolation Unit, one of which remains symptomatic for the virus but improving and two who are currently asymptomatic. Each of these Veteran Patients have serious underlying pre-existing medical conditions so while their symptoms are improving, their medical status remains guarded. No Veteran Patients tested positive for COVID-19 in the past thirteen days.

There are currently four Veteran Residents in the Residential Facility Isolation Unit, three of whom are now asymptomatic and will be released from Isolation if they retest negative for the virus this week. One Veteran Resident is being treated in a critical care unit at a community based hospital for COVID-19 related complications. Three Veteran Residents, who recovered from COVID-19, remain in physical therapy/rehabilitation programs with one expected to return to the Residential program soon.

To date, the DVA has tested one-hundred and sixty-six Veteran Residents and Patients (many tested multiple times) for COVID-19 with twenty-four testing positive of which, thirteen have recovered and seven Veterans who tested COVID-19 positive are currently in the HCC and Residential Isolation Units on our Campus. One Veteran remains in a community based hospital, one Veteran Resident and two Veteran Patients have passed away from COVID-19 and had serious underlying medical conditions. To date, four DVA staff members have tested positive for COVID-19, two of whom have recovered and are expected to return to work soon consistent with CDC guidelines.

As we approach the May 20th date for which some areas of business in Connecticut will start to re-open, all DVA COVID-19 Protocols will remain in place until amended by me based on consultation with DVA senior leadership and Public Health experts. It is likely that travel and other restrictions for Veteran Residents will be adjusted over the next week however, there are no plans to scale back the ongoing screening and testing of DVA Veterans and staff.

The DVA continues daily screening of all staff and Veterans as well as 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>.