



COVID-19 Agency Update
May 18, 2020

The Department of Veterans Affairs (DVA) Healthcare Center (HCC) currently has two COVID-19 positive Veteran Patients in the HCC Isolation Unit, both of whom are gradually improving. Each of these Veteran Patients have serious underlying pre-existing medical conditions so even while their symptoms are improving, their medical status remains guarded. A third Veteran Patient who was being treated in the HCC Isolation Unit was transferred to a community based hospital for acute care. No Veteran Patients tested positive for COVID-19 in the past fourteen 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 six Veterans who tested COVID-19 positive are currently in the HCC and Residential Isolation Units on our Campus. Two Veterans are in community based hospitals and one Veteran Resident and two Veteran Patients with serious pre-existing medical conditions passed away from COVID-19. To date, four DVA staff members have tested positive for COVID-19, two of whom have recovered and will be returning to work consistent with CDC guidelines.

As a reminder with the May 20th date approaching and additional sectors of business in Connecticut start to re-open, all DVA COVID-19 Protocols will remain in place until amended by Commissioner Saadi based in consultation with DVA senior leadership and Public Health experts. It remains likely that travel restrictions for Veteran Residents will be adjusted in a phased manner soon, however there are no plans to scale back the ongoing screening and testing of DVA Veterans and staff. In fact, the DVA will conduct additional broad scale testing this week.

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>.