



**COVID-19 Agency Update**  
**May 19, 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 earlier this week. No Veteran Patients tested positive for COVID-19 in the past fifteen days.

There is one Veteran Resident in the Residential Facility Isolation Unit and as of today, three Veteran Residents who previously tested positive for COVID-19 were discharged from the Isolation Unit after testing negative twice consistent with CDC guidelines. 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 seventy-four Veteran Residents and Patients (many tested multiple times) for COVID-19 with twenty-four testing positive of which, sixteen have recovered and three 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 soon consistent with CDC guidelines. The test results from seventeen Veteran Patients swabbed today are pending.

Today, DVA Commissioner Thomas Saadi issued the first of a series of modifications to the DVA Covid-19 Mitigation Protocols in line with the phased reopening of sectors of business in Connecticut this week. The first modifications involve the lifting of some limits on off Campus travel by Veteran Residents and allowing delivery of takeout food to the DVA Campus. All other DVA COVID-19 Protocols remain in place until modified by Commissioner Saadi in consultation with DVA senior leadership and Public Health experts. The DVA will continue to conduct additional broad scale testing of Veteran Residents and Veteran Patients over the next several weeks.

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>.