



COVID-19 Agency Update
May 2, 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. Two of these Veterans remain asymptomatic and two are symptomatic and have serious terminal pre-existing medical conditions. No additional Veteran Patients have presented with COVID-19 symptoms in the past four days.

The DVA Residential Program had one Veteran Resident test positive for the virus five days ago, which is the only positive test in the Residential Program during the previous sixteen 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 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.

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 two weeks ago in a community based hospital.

Today, with the assistance of Residential Veterans Council leadership, the DVA operated supervised personal need shopping trips for Veteran Residents. Each van trip was limited to no more than three Veterans who followed social distancing and facemask protocols as well as personal hygiene procedures upon return to campus. The DVA has been able to limit the number of such trips because of the generosity of donors who have provided many of the items our Veterans need.

The DVA continues rigorous COVID-19 signs and symptoms screening processes in addition to following the DVA Enhanced Safety and Health COVID-19 Protocols which are reviewed 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>.