



COVID-19 Agency Update
May 20, 2020

The Department of Veterans Affairs (DVA) Healthcare Center (HCC) currently has three Veteran Patients in the HCC Isolation Unit, all three of whom are no longer COVID-19 positive and will be released from the Isolation Unit at a time consistent with CDC and public health guidelines. Each of these Veteran Patients have serious underlying pre-existing medical conditions so, even while their symptoms are improving, their medical status remains guarded. No Veteran Patients have tested positive for COVID-19 in the past sixteen days.

There is one Veteran Resident in the Residential Facility Isolation Unit 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 yesterday. One Veteran Resident being treated in a community based hospital for COVID-19 related complications has recovered and was transferred to a rehabilitation facility yesterday. There are now four Veteran Residents, who recovered from COVID-19, 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, seventeen have recovered and four Veterans who tested COVID-19 positive are currently in the HCC and Residential Isolation Units on our Campus. 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 re-testing results from seventeen Veteran Patients yesterday were all negative for COVID-19.

Yesterday I issued the first of what will be a series of modifications to the DVA COVID-19 Mitigation Protocols consistent with the phased reopening of 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 me in consultation with DVA senior leadership and Public Health experts. The DVA will continue to conduct broad testing of Veteran Residents and Veteran Patients over the next several weeks and facilitate the testing of Staff.

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