



COVID-19 Agency Update
May 22, 2020

Today, the Department of Veterans Affairs (DVA) Healthcare Center (HCC) is pleased to announce that one of the three Veteran Patients in the HCC Isolation Unit, a 100 year old World War II Veteran, has recovered from COVID-19 and is now back in his own room in the HCC. This Veteran is a true hero who fought the enemies of freedom in WWII and fought the invisible enemy of COVID-19 in 2020 and won both times!

The DVA HCC currently has two Veteran Patients in the HCC Isolation Unit, one of whom remains COVID-19 positive and the other negative for the virus. Both of these Veteran Patients have serious underlying pre-existing medical conditions therefore, even while their conditions are improving, their medical status remains guarded. No Veteran Patients have tested positive for COVID-19 in the past eighteen days.

One Veteran Resident remains in the Residential Facility Isolation Unit after testing positive a second time for COVID-19. There are currently four Veteran Residents, who recovered from COVID-19, in physical therapy/rehabilitation programs with one expected to return to the Residential program next week.

To date, the DVA has tested one-hundred and seventy-eight Veteran Residents and Patients (many tested multiple times) for COVID-19 with twenty-four testing positive of which, eighteen have recovered and three Veterans who tested COVID-19 positive are currently in the HCC and Residential Isolation Units on our Campus in various stages of recovery. One Veteran Resident and two Veteran Patients with serious pre-existing medical conditions have passed away from COVID-19. Four DVA staff members have tested positive for COVID-19, two of which have recovered and returned to work consistent with CDC guidelines.

Today Commissioner Thomas Saadi returned to the DVA Campus to participate in the HCC Veterans Memorial Service. This is the first time Commissioner Saadi has been on the Campus in nearly three months due to his being on active military duty in NY and the related DoD travel restrictions since early March. It was an emotional day for all with both smiles and tears as the DVA remembered those lost over the past year while also thanking the Veterans with us for their Service. To view the ceremony visit Facebook: [CT Veterans Affairs](#).

The DVA will conduct COVID-19 testing of every Veteran Resident over the next few weeks and of every Veteran Patient on a single day next week. The DVA is facilitating the testing of staff and continuing the daily screening of all Staff and Veterans and the adherence to 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>.