



COVID-19 Agency Update
May 26, 2020

The Department of Veterans Affairs (DVA) Healthcare Center (HCC) currently has one Veteran Patient in the HCC Isolation Unit and although improving, has serious underlying pre-existing medical conditions so their status remains guarded. A second Veteran Patient who was in the Isolation Unit was transferred to a community based Hospital for Non-COVID related acute care treatment on May 24th. No Veteran Patients have tested positive for COVID-19 in the past twenty-one 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 this 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 two 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 Patient is in a community based Hospital. 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.

Over the Memorial Day weekend, I was honored to participate in ceremonies to remember and memorialize the men and women who from Connecticut and across the country made the ultimate sacrifice in service to our Nation. With the focus on the COVID-19 pandemic and on the gradual re-opening of the country, it was important to remind people to pause and reflect on the lives of those who fell to secure and maintain the freedoms we enjoy as Americans. To view the ceremony at the State Veterans Cemetery please visit Lt Governor Bysiewicz's Facebook page:

<https://www.facebook.com/19725054961600069/videos/64445961290955>

The DVA began the testing of full wings of the DVA Residential Facility today which will continue over the next few weeks in addition to the testing of every Veteran Patient in the HCC on May 27th. The DVA continues to facilitate the testing of staff and conducts daily screenings of all Staff and Veterans along with 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>.