



COVID-19 Agency Update
May 5, 2020

The Department of Veterans Affairs (DVA) Healthcare Center (HCC) currently has four Veteran Patients who tested COVID-19 positive last week and who are being cared for in our HCC Isolation Unit. One Veteran Patient was transferred from the HCC Isolation Unit to an acute care community hospital due to COVID-19 complications and serious pre-existing medical conditions. One Veteran in the HCC Isolation Unit remains COVID-19 asymptomatic and two Veterans are symptomatic with serious terminal pre-existing medical conditions. Today the HCC retested sixteen Veteran Patients who are in the HCC wing where four Veteran Patients tested positive for COVID-19 last week. Of those tested today, fifteen Veteran Patients tested negative for a second time and one tested positive for the virus. This Veteran Patient is now in the HCC Isolation Unit.

The DVA Residential Program had one Veteran Resident test positive for the virus eight days ago, which is the only positive test in the Residential Program during the previous nineteen days. Yesterday, two Veteran Residents were released from the Isolation Unit after testing negative for the virus. One Veteran Resident remains in our Residential Facility Isolation Unit who was previously COVID-19 positive and who tested negative for the virus yesterday. This Veteran is subject to a few days of observation and should be released from the Isolation Unit soon. 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-two individual Veteran Residents and Patients (many tested multiple times) for COVID-19 with a total of twenty-one testing positive for the virus of which, thirteen have recovered and five are currently in the HCC and Residential Isolation Units on our Campus. Two Veterans are in a community based hospital and one Veteran Resident passed away two weeks ago in a community based hospital. A total of two DVA staff members have tested positive for COVID-19. We believe risk of exposure to the virus by these staff members to Veterans and other staff is minimal based on contact tracing, use of Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) and that both contracted the virus off campus.

The DVA continues its daily 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>.