



COVID-19 Agency Update
May 6, 2020

This morning a Veteran Patient in the Department of Veterans Affairs (DVA) Healthcare Center (HCC) COVID Isolation Unit passed away due to complications from the virus and serious pre-existing medical conditions. This is a great loss and the staff of the DVA mourn his passing with his family and his brother and sister Veterans. The DVA will conduct a memorial service at a date to be determined, attendance is limited to DVA Veteran Patients and Staff.

There are three COVID-19 positive Veteran Patients in the HCC Isolation Unit. Two of these Veterans are asymptomatic for the virus and one Veteran is symptomatic with serious underlying pre-existing medical conditions. One Veteran Patient, who was transferred from the HCC Isolation Unit to an acute care community hospital due to COVID-19 complications on May 4th, remains in serious condition.

The DVA Residential Program had one Veteran Resident test positive for the virus nine days ago, which is the only positive test in the Residential Program during the previous twenty days. One Veteran Resident remaining in our Residential Facility Isolation Unit recently tested negative for the virus 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-three individual Veteran Residents and Patients (many tested multiple times) for COVID-19 with twenty-one testing positive of which, thirteen have recovered and four are currently in the HCC and Residential Isolation Units on our Campus. Two Veterans are in community based hospitals, one Veteran Resident passed away two weeks ago in a community based hospital and one Veteran Patient passed away this morning. Two DVA staff members have tested positive for COVID-19 and are on leave until cleared to return consistent with CDC guidelines.

As we commemorate National Nurses Week, I want to thank the DVA nurses, clinical and front line staff who are working each day in service to our Veterans during this pandemic. Yesterday, the DVA was honored to host a tribute to the service of all DVA frontline workers organized by Kyle Delucia, Kyla Boyle and Bill Fitzmaurice. For more information and photos of the event please visit: www.facebook.com/CTVeteransAffairs/

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