



COVID-19 Agency Update & VE Day Message
May 8, 2020

Today we commemorate the 75th anniversary of Allied Victory in Europe in World War II after U.S. led Allied forces accepted the surrender of Nazi Germany on May 8, 1945. We honor those of that greatest of generations who served and sacrificed so that Americans and millions of others across the globe may live free. We are also honored to care for seven World War II Veterans at the Department of Veterans Affairs (DVA) Healthcare Center (HCC), and we thank them for their service and sacrifice which ensured that the principals of American freedom and democracy may endure in this great Nation.

The Department of Veterans Affairs (DVA) Healthcare Center (HCC) currently has three Veteran Patients in our HCC COVID-19 Isolation Unit. Two of these Veterans are asymptomatic for the virus and one Veteran is symptomatic with serious underlying pre-existing medical conditions. Two of these Veterans remain COVID-19 asymptomatic and one is symptomatic with serious terminal pre-existing medical conditions. No additional Veteran Patients have presented with COVID-19 symptoms in the past five days. One Veteran Patient 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 conducted another broad testing today of fifteen Veteran Residents for COVID-19 with the results expected later this evening. Yesterday one Veteran Resident tested positive for the virus, which was the first positive test in the previous ten days in the Residential Program. Two Veteran Residents are in the Isolation Unit and 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 one-hundred individual Veteran Residents and Patients (many tested multiple times) for COVID-19 with twenty-two testing positive of which, thirteen have recovered and five are currently in the HCC and Residential Isolation Units on our Campus. ¹ 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 yesterday at our Healthcare Center. To date, three DVA staff members have tested positive for COVID-19 and are on leave until cleared to return consistent with CDC guidelines.

The DVA continues daily screening procedures for staff and Veterans and today completed oxygen saturation baseline screenings of all our Veteran Residents. DVA Enhanced Safety and Health COVID-19 Protocols are available, along with other important information, at: <https://portal.ct.gov/DVA/Pages/DVA-COVID-19-Updates>.

1. The number of recovered Veterans is down by one, and number of those in isolation increased by one due to a Veteran who previously recovered from the virus being re-infected.