



COVID-19 Agency Update
May 9, 2020

During the COVID-19 pandemic, the Department of Veterans Affairs (DVA) has continued the hard work of completing the transition of the DVA Healthcare Center (HCC) to a Medicaid/Medicare certified skilled nursing facility. We are pleased to announce that the HCC, which was Medicaid certified last year, has successfully completed the process for Medicare certification retroactive to March 4, 2020. These successes will allow the DVA to better serve more Veterans in need of long-term and short-term skilled nursing care.

The DVA HCC currently has three Veteran Patients in the HCC COVID-19 Isolation Unit. One Veteran is asymptomatic for the virus and two Veterans are symptomatic with serious underlying pre-existing medical conditions. No additional Veteran Patients have presented with COVID-19 symptoms in the past six 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 yesterday of fifteen Veteran Residents for COVID-19 with fourteen testing negative and one testing positive for the virus. The single positive Veteran Resident was immediately transferred to the Residential Isolation Unit. There are currently three Veteran Residents 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 with two expected to return to the Residential program soon.

To date, the DVA has tested one-hundred and fourteen individual Veteran Residents and Patients (many tested multiple times) for COVID-19 with twenty-three testing positive of which, thirteen have recovered and six 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 yesterday at our HCC. 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 Veterans 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>