



DVA COVID-19 Update: April 29, 2021

The Department of Veterans Affairs (DVA) Healthcare Center (HCC) has no COVID-19 positive Veteran Patients in the HCC Isolation Unit. Three Veteran Patients are in self-isolation for monitoring as they recently returned from acute care or other community-based healthcare facilities or were recently admitted to the HCC. These Veterans have tested negative for the virus but are in Self-Isolation out of an abundance of caution until clinically cleared for release. The HCC continues with weekly COVID-19 testing of all staff and Veteran Patients with all staff testing negative for the virus this week and with test results for Veteran Patients pending.

The DVA Residential Facility had its only COVID-19 positive Veteran Resident during the previous three months approximately five weeks ago. There have been no further COVID-19 positive Veteran Residents since then and the single COVID-19 Veteran was off Campus when learning of the positive COVID-19 test and remained off Campus until testing negative twice for the virus before returning to the DVA Campus. We conducted full point prevalence testing approximately three weeks ago with all Veteran Residents testing negative for COVID-19. The next full point prevalence testing for Veteran Residents is May 4th. There are no Veteran Residents in the COVID-19 positive section of the Isolation and Recovery Unit nor in the protective monitoring section of the Isolation Unit. The DVA continues testing Residential Veterans once per month with additional testing of Veteran Vocational Therapeutic Program participants as an extra precaution until further notice. To date the DVA has tested two hundred and forty-seven Veteran Residents and Patients (most multiple times) for COVID-19 with seventy testing positive or retesting positive since March 2020. Of those testing positive, sixty-five recovered from the virus. One Veteran Resident and two Veteran Patients passed away in the spring due to COVID-19, and two Veteran Patients passed away in December and January from COVID-19 complications. One Veteran Patient with COVID-19 passed away in December from a non-COVID-19 medical occurrence.

Of the sixty-one DVA staff members testing positive for COVID-19 since the beginning of the pandemic, sixty staff members have recovered and returned to work and one remains in recovery and will be cleared to return to work consistent with CDC and DPH guidelines. The DVA conducted full point prevalence testing of HCC staff this week with all testing negative for the virus and we will continue weekly testing of direct care and front-line staff until further notice. The DVA has vaccinated ninety-eight percent of our Veteran Residents and Patients and approximately fifty-nine percent of our DVA Healthcare and other direct care providers and front-line staff are vaccinated.

Please note the DVA is accepting applications for admission to our Healthcare Center providing long-term skilled nursing care as well applications to our Veteran Residential Program. For information and to obtain applications please visit: [CT-DVA-Sgt-John-L-Levitow-Residential-Facility-and-Patriots-Landing-Accepting-Applications-for-Admis.pdf](#)

The DVA COVID-19 Mitigation Protocols, previous COVID-19 weekly updates and other important information is available at: <https://portal.ct.gov/DVA/Pages/DVA-COVID-19-Updates>.