



**DVA COVID-19 Update:**  
**July 16, 2021**

The Department of Veterans Affairs (DVA) Healthcare Center (HCC) has no COVID-19 positive Veteran Patients in the HCC Isolation Unit and no Veteran Patients have tested positive for COVID-19 in over three months. All Veteran Patients recently in self-isolation after returning to the HCC from off campus inpatient care have been clinically cleared for release. The HCC has significantly expanded visitation opportunities for family and friends of our Veteran Patients and we are increasing Veteran recreation and recognition events and we are welcoming back individual and group volunteers.

The DVA Residential Facility has not had a COVID-19 positive Veteran Resident in more than four months and all unvaccinated Veteran Residents and Veteran Vocational Therapeutic Program participants tested negative for COVID-19 this week. Based on the excellent test results and vaccination rates, the DVA will continue testing only unvaccinated Veteran Residents, unless they are a Veteran Vocational Therapeutic Program participant, all of whom are tested monthly. 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 to expand both on and off Campus recreational activities for Veteran Residents including shopping, baseball games, theater trips, bowling, hiking and attendance at community based Civic and Veteran Service Organization events.

Since the Pandemic began, the DVA has provided direct care for two hundred and fifty-one Veteran Residents and Veteran Patients at our Campus of whom seventy-one tested positive or retested positive for COVID-19 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 a Veteran Patient passed away in December 2020 and in January 2021 from COVID-19 complications. One Veteran Patient with COVID-19 passed away in December from a non-COVID-19 medical occurrence. Of the sixty-four DVA staff members contracting COVID-19 since the beginning of the pandemic, all have recovered and returned to work after clinical clearance.

The DVA has vaccinated ninety-nine percent of our Veteran Residents and Patients and just over sixty-eight percent of DVA staff. Based on our testing results, vaccination rates and the maintaining of certain COVID-19 mitigation procedures, we are conducting monthly testing of only unvaccinated staff members.

While the DVA issued updated COVID-19 Mitigation Protocols on June 21, 2021, lifting some existing pandemic-based restrictions/requirements at our Campus the wearing of face masks remains mandatory in all common areas inside DVA buildings (see COVID-19 Mitigation Protocols for details).

As mentioned individual and volunteer groups are welcome at the DVA, please call 860-616-3603 with any questions regarding volunteering in support of our Veterans.

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