



**DVA COVID-19 Update:**  
**July 9, 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 will soon significantly expand visitation opportunities by family and friends as well as Veteran recreation and recognition events after completing a careful review of procedures to ensure the safety of our Veterans and our Staff.

The DVA Residential Facility has not had a COVID-19 positive Veteran Resident in four months and all unvaccinated Veteran Residents and Veteran Vocational Therapeutic Program participants tested negative for COVID-19 in June. Based on the good test results and vaccination rates, the DVA is now testing only unvaccinated Veteran Residents, unless they are a Veteran Vocational Therapeutic Program participant, all of whom continue to be 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 and theater trips, bowling, hiking and attendance at community based Civil and Veteran Service Organization events.

Since the Pandemic began, the DVA has provided direct care for two hundred and fifty 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-seven percent of DVA staff. Based on our testing results, vaccination rates and the maintaining of certain COVID-19 mitigation procedures, we are now conducting monthly testing of all unvaccinated staff members the third week of each month. The DVA issued updated COVID-19 Mitigation Protocols on June 21, 2021, lifting some existing pandemic-based restrictions/requirements at our Campus and will issue another update in the next week expanding visitation and recreational activities for our Veterans. The wearing of face masks does remain mandatory in all common areas in DVA buildings (see COVID-19 Mitigation Protocols for details). Failure of any person to follow DVA COVID-19 Mitigation rules when visiting a Veteran Patient or Veteran Resident will result in termination of the visit.

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>.