



STATE OF CONNECTICUT
DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS
OFFICE OF THE COMMISSIONER
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Thomas J. Saadi
Commissioner

DVA COVID-19 Update: June 11, 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 several months. All Veteran Patients previously in self-isolation due to return from off Campus care or being recently admitted to the HCC have all been clinically cleared and released from self-isolation. The HCC completed weekly COVID-19 testing of all staff and Veteran Patients with no Veteran Patients or HCC staff testing positive for COVID-19 last week.

The DVA Residential Facility has not had a COVID-19 positive Veteran Resident in several months and we conducted full point prevalence testing of Veteran Residents last week with all testing negative for COVID-19. Based on the excellent results of testing, the DVA is transitioning to testing only non-vaccinated Veteran Residents, unless they are a Veteran Vocational Therapeutic Program participant, all of whom will 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.

Since the beginning of the Pandemic, the DVA has provided direct care for and tested two hundred and forty-eight Veteran Residents and Veteran Patients at our Campus (most multiple times) for COVID-19 with seventy-one 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 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 testing positive for COVID-19 since the beginning of the pandemic, all sixty-four have recovered and have returned to work after being clinically cleared. The DVA conducted full point prevalence testing of HCC staff and other non-HCC direct care and services staff last week with no staff members testing positive for the virus. The DVA has vaccinated ninety-nine percent of our Veteran Residents and Patients and is close to sixty-five percent of DVA Healthcare and other direct care staff. Based on our excellent testing results and vaccination coverage we will transition to monthly testing of all non-vaccinated staff members beginning the week of June 21st. Also, in the next week the DVA will issue updated COVID-19 Mitigation Protocols lifting some of the existing pandemic-based restrictions/requirements at the DVA Campus.

All DVA operations, including our Skilled Nursing Facility and Residential Program are accepting applications for admission. 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 information is available at: <https://portal.ct.gov/DVA/Pages/DVA-COVID-19-Updates>.