



STATE OF CONNECTICUT
DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS
OFFICE OF THE COMMISSIONER
287 West Street
Rocky Hill, CT 06067



Thomas J. Saadi
Commissioner

DVA COVID-19 Update: June 18, 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. There is one Veteran Patient in self-isolation due to being recently admitted to the HCC and is expected to be clinically cleared for release from self-isolation on June 22nd. The DVA has also achieved another milestone in the fight against the pandemic with our pharmacy being certified as a COVID-19 vaccination provider allowing the DVA to directly administer vaccinations to Veteran Residents, Patients and staff eliminating reliance on third party providers.

The DVA Residential Facility has not had a COVID-19 positive Veteran Resident in over three months and we conducted point prevalence testing of any unvaccinated Veteran Residents and Veteran Vocational Therapeutic Program participants this week with all testing negative for COVID-19. Based on the excellent results of testing, the DVA will now test only non-vaccinated Veteran Residents, unless they are a Veteran Vocational Therapeutic Program participant, all of whom will 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.

Since the beginning of the Pandemic, 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 have returned to work after clinical clearance. The DVA has vaccinated ninety-nine percent of our Veteran Residents and Patients and just over sixty-six percent of DVA staff. Based on our excellent testing results and vaccination rates we have transitioned to monthly testing of all non-vaccinated staff members with the first round of testing the week of June 21st. Also, the DVA is issuing updated COVID-19 Mitigation Protocols today which take effect on June 21, 2021, lifting some existing pandemic-based restrictions/requirements at our Campus. However, the wearing of face masks remains mandatory in all common areas in DVA buildings (see COVID-19 Mitigation Protocols for details).

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>.