



**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 25, 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 are no Veteran Patients in self-isolation after a recently admitted Veteran was clinically cleared for release from self-isolation on June 22nd. The HCC is gradually expanding visitation opportunities however, we are taking a careful incremental approach in order to ensure the safety of our Veterans and our Staff. Failure of any person visiting a Veteran Patient in following DVA COVID-19 Mitigation rules will result in termination of the visit.

The DVA Residential Facility has not had a COVID-19 positive Veteran Resident in over three months and all unvaccinated Veteran Residents and Veteran Vocational Therapeutic Program participants tested negative for COVID-19 last week. Based on the excellent testing 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 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, vaccination rates and the maintaining of certain COVID-19 mitigation procedures, we have transitioned to monthly testing of all unvaccinated staff members the third week of each month. Also, the DVA issued updated COVID-19 Mitigation Protocols 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>.