



**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 4, 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 recently 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 this 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 this week with all testing negative for COVID-19. Based on the excellent results of testing this week, the DVA will transition 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 (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 one 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, sixty-four have recovered and have either returned to work or have been cleared to work in the next few days. The DVA conducted full point prevalence testing of HCC staff and other non-HCC direct care and services staff this week with no staff members testing positive for the virus. Based on these results we will continue with weekly testing of non-vaccinated staff members. 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.

Note that DVA COVID-19 Mitigation Protocols remain in place including masking requirements in buildings for all persons (vaccinated or unvaccinated) until further notice pursuant to nursing home, congregant living regulations. However, based on the DVA's vaccination rate of Veterans and Staff as well as the results of COVID-19 testing over the past two weeks, the DVA COVID-19 Mitigation Protocols will be updated within the next two weeks.

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>.