



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

DVA COVID-19 Update: March 5, 2021

The Department of Veterans Affairs (DVA) Healthcare Center (HCC) has no COVID-19 positive Veteran Patients in the HCC Isolation Unit. Three Veteran Patients are in self-isolation for monitoring as they recently returned from acute care or other community-based healthcare facilities or were recently admitted to the HCC. These Veterans have tested negative for the virus but are in Self-Isolation out of an abundance of caution until clinically cleared for release. The HCC continues weekly testing of all Veteran Patients with all Veteran Patients testing negative for the virus for a fifth week.

The DVA Residential Facility had no new cases of COVID-19 Veteran Residents in nearly two months and there are no Veteran Residents in the COVID-19 positive section or the protective monitoring sections of the Isolation Unit after a Veteran Resident who recently returned from travel outside of the United States was clinically cleared for release consistent with CDC and DPH guidelines. The DVA has adjusted testing of all Residential Veterans to once per month with additional testing of Veteran Vocational Therapeutic Program participants. This week all Veteran Residents tested negative for the virus. To date the DVA has tested two hundred and forty-one Veteran Residents and Patients (most multiple times) for COVID-19 with sixty-nine testing positive or retesting positive since March 2020. Of those testing positive, sixty-three recovered from the virus. One Veteran Resident and two Veteran Patients passed away in the spring due to COVID-19 and two Veteran Patients passed away in December and January from COVID-19 complications. One Veteran Patient with COVID-19 passed away in December from a non-COVID-19 related medical occurrence.

A total of fifty-seven DVA staff members tested positive for COVID-19 since the beginning of the pandemic. Fifty-six staff members have recovered and returned to work with only one remaining to recover and be cleared to return to work consistent with CDC and DPH guidelines. The DVA continues weekly COVID-19 testing of direct care and front-line staff all of whom tested negative for the virus for a fifth consecutive week. This testing will continue until further notice.

The DVA has vaccinated just over ninety percent of our Veteran Residents and Patients and one-hundred and fifty of our DVA Healthcare and other direct care providers and front-line staff are vaccinated. The DVA continued the process to become a direct COVID-19 vaccinator for our Veterans and Staff in the future.

The DVA is a safe and supportive environment for Veterans and we are accepting applications for admission of individual Veterans to our Healthcare Center and Residential Facility - for more information visit: <https://portal.ct.gov/DVA/Pages/Residential-and-Healthcare-Programs>. We also have available homes in our Veterans family housing program known as Patriots Landing – for more information visit: <https://portal.ct.gov/DVA/Pages/Patriots-Landing>.

The DVA staff, with the support of our Federal VA partners and other state agencies continue the hard work of meeting and overcoming the challenges of this pandemic in order to keep Veterans and staff safe. The DVA COVID-19 Mitigation Protocols, previous COVID-19 weekly updates and other important information is available at: <https://portal.ct.gov/DVA/Pages/DVA-COVID-19-Updates>.