



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

**DVA COVID-19 Update: May 14, 2021**

The Department of Veterans Affairs (DVA) Healthcare Center (HCC) has no COVID-19 positive Veteran Patients in the HCC Isolation Unit. One Veteran Patient is in self-isolation for monitoring as this Veteran was recently admitted to the HCC. This Veteran has tested negative for the virus but is in Self-Isolation out of an abundance of caution until clinically cleared for release. The HCC continues with weekly COVID-19 testing of all staff and Veteran Patients with one HCC staff member testing positive for COVID-19 this week. This staff member always wore the appropriate PPE and after conducting contact tracing no Veterans or other staff members were identified as having “close contact” without proper PPE with the positive staff member. We also conducted a COVID-19 antigen test on all Veteran patients with all testing negative for the virus.

The DVA Residential Facility had its only COVID-19 positive Veteran Resident during the previous three and a half months approximately seven weeks ago. There have been no further COVID-19 positive Veteran Residents since then. We conducted full point prevalence testing last week with all Veteran Residents testing negative for COVID-19. The next full point prevalence testing for Veteran Residents is early June. The DVA will continue testing Residential Veterans once per month with additional testing of Veteran Vocational Therapeutic Program participants as an extra precaution until further notice. 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. To date the DVA has tested two hundred and forty-seven Veteran Residents and Patients (most multiple times) for COVID-19 with seventy 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 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 medical occurrence.

Of the sixty-two DVA staff members testing positive for COVID-19 since the beginning of the pandemic, sixty have recovered and returned to work and one continues to progress in recovery and will return to work clinically cleared and another was recently diagnosed and is in quarantine. The DVA conducted full point prevalence testing of HCC staff this week with one staff member testing positive for the virus, as such, we will continue weekly testing of direct care and front-line staff and Veteran Patients until further notice. The DVA has vaccinated ninety-nine percent of our Veteran Residents and Patients and has surpassed sixty-percent of DVA Healthcare and other direct care staff and front-line staff being vaccinated.

Please note that the new CDC guidelines regarding face masks do not change any DVA COVID-19 mitigation protocols. All masking requirements remain in place in all buildings by all person (vaccinated or unvaccinated) at the DVA until further notice pursuant to nursing home, congregant living and healthcare facility regulations and rules at the State and federal levels. That said, there will be adjustment to the DVA protocols forthcoming in the next several weeks.

The DVA COVID-19 Mitigation Protocols, previous COVID-19 weekly updates and other important information is available anytime at: <https://portal.ct.gov/DVA/Pages/DVA-COVID-19-Updates>.