



**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: May 28, 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 Patient has 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 continues with 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 our next Veteran Resident full point prevalence testing (PPT) for COVID-19 is scheduled from June 1<sup>st</sup>. Based on the results of the June 1<sup>st</sup> PPT, the DVA will likely transition to testing only non-vaccinated Veteran Residents weekly with testing of all 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. 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 returned to work, one remains in home quarantine and will return to work when clinically cleared. The DVA conducted full point prevalence testing of HCC staff this week with no staff members testing positive for the virus and 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 is close to sixty-five percent of DVA Healthcare and other direct care staff and front-line staff being vaccinated with a goal of 70-80% of staff being vaccinated within the next month.

In addition to the pandemic response, the DVA continues all regular operations including the recent completion of another Residential wing improvement project which converted four bed open bay style rooms to updated semiprivate rooms with more living space, new furniture including a sofa, recliners, tables and chairs in each room along with new bedding and welcome-back personal needs gift baskets for Residents.

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. There will be adjustments to the DVA COVID-19 Mitigation Protocols in June. 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>.

I wish you not a happy Memorial Day but a reflective and peaceful Memorial Day as we remember those who have made the ultimate sacrifice on the mantel of freedom in service to this Nation.