



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

DVA COVID-19 Update: May 6, 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 all staff tested this week testing negative for the virus.

The DVA Residential Facility had its only COVID-19 positive Veteran Resident during the previous three months approximately six weeks ago. There have been no further COVID-19 positive Veteran Residents since then and the single COVID-19 Veteran was and remained off Campus with a friend until testing negative twice for the virus before returning to the Campus.

We conducted a full point prevalence testing this 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-one 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. The DVA conducted full point prevalence testing of HCC staff this week with all testing negative for the virus and we will continue weekly testing of direct care and front-line staff until further notice. The DVA has vaccinated ninety-nine percent of our Veteran Residents and Patients and is approaching sixty-percent of DVA Healthcare and other direct care staff and front-line staff being vaccinated.

Despite the pandemic we continue regular operations and are accepting applications for admission to our Healthcare Center providing long-term skilled nursing care as well applications to our Veteran Residential Program. 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 important information is available anytime at: <https://portal.ct.gov/DVA/Pages/DVA-COVID-19-Updates>.