



**COVID-19 Agency Update**  
**July 24, 2020**

The Department of Veterans Affairs (DVA) Healthcare Center (HCC) has no Veteran Patients in the HCC Isolation Recovery Unit and no additional Veteran Patients have tested positive for COVID-19 in eleven weeks. I am pleased to report that in the DVA Residential Facility, we completed full point prevalence testing of all Residential Veterans on July 21<sup>st</sup> with the support of the CT National Guard and Federal VA. Of the 111 Veterans tested for COVID-19, 109 tested negative for the virus with results for two Veterans pending. These results demonstrate that the COVID-19 mitigation protocols, which include rigorous screening and ongoing testing, are keeping our Veterans and Staff safe. Point prevalence testing of Veterans will continue as part of our ongoing efforts to mitigate the potential spread of the virus.

I am also pleased that the DVA continues to process new admissions to our Healthcare Center and Residential Program demonstrating the success of our updated admission procedures which, combined with new sustainable COVID-19 Isolation and Recovery Units, will ensure uninterrupted safe access to these essential programs during the current and potential future pandemics.

Over the previous five months, the DVA has tested two hundred and thirty-two Veteran Residents and Patients (most tested multiple times) for COVID-19 with twenty-five testing positive. No Veteran Residents have tested positive in nearly two months. Of the twenty-five Veteran Residents and Patients who tested positive, twenty-two recovered from the virus. One Veteran Resident and two Veteran Patients passed away in late April and early May due to COVID-19 complications. Five DVA staff members tested positive for COVID-19, with four recovering and returning to work nearly two months ago and one, who was out on sick leave this week when testing positive. The DVA conducted contact tracing and determined that this staff member is not a direct care provider in the Healthcare Center or Residential Facility, had minimal contact with Veterans and Staff and always wore proper PPE thereby minimizing possible transmission of the virus.

On July 9, 16 and 23, the DVA conducted COVID-19 testing of all direct care and front line staff who work in the Healthcare Center and Residential Facility. All tests from July 9 and July 16 were negative for the virus and we will report the results of the July 23 testing when they are available.

We continue regular screening of staff and Veterans and adherence to the DVA Enhanced Safety and Health COVID-19 Protocols and modifications thereto which are available, along with other important information, at: <https://portal.ct.gov/DVA/Pages/DVA-COVID-19-Updates>.