



COVID-19 Agency Update
June 19, 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 nearly five weeks. One Veteran Patient, who previously tested positive for COVID-19, did re-test positive for the virus over the previous weekend after being transferred to a community based hospital for non-COVID acute care, where he currently remains.

In the DVA Residential Facility we have been conducting mass testing of each Residential wing and this week one Veteran Resident tested positive for COVID-19. This Veteran is in the Residential Isolation Recovery Unit and remains asymptomatic. This is our first COVID-19 case in the Residential Facility in more than a month. We will continue regular testing and screening of Veteran Residents to mitigate potential spread of the virus. One Veteran Resident who recovered from COVID-19 is in a community based physical therapy/rehabilitation program and a second Veteran Resident who recovered from the virus is receiving in-home rehabilitative care.

To date, the DVA has tested two hundred and twenty-two Veteran Residents and Patients (most tested multiple times) for COVID-19 with twenty-five testing positive. Of the twenty-five Veteran Residents and Patients who tested positive, twenty recovered from the virus, one Veteran Patient re-tested positive and one Veteran Resident recently tested positive. One Veteran Resident and two Veteran Patients passed away in late April and early May due to COVID-19. Four DVA staff members had tested positive for COVID-19 and all have recovered and returned to work with no staff members testing positive for the virus in a month.

We will continue wing by wing testing in the Residential Facility through the end of June as we lift COVID-19 restrictions across agency core function areas including the reopening of multiple recreational venues for Veteran Residents on the DVA Campus.

The DVA encourages eligible staff to take advantage of available COVID-19 offsite testing as we finalize plans for regular onsite testing of staff. We maintain 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>.