



COVID-19 Agency Update
June 8, 2020

The Department of Veterans Affairs (DVA) Healthcare Center (HCC) has no Veteran Patients in the HCC Isolation Unit and no additional Veteran Patients have tested positive for COVID-19 in just over one month. Later this week we will retest every Veteran Patient in the HCC consistent with the State Department of Public Health's increased COVID-19 mitigation rules of skilled nursing facilities.

This afternoon another Veteran Resident was released from the Residential Facility Isolation Unit after recovering from COVID-19 and testing negative twice for the virus. Two Veteran Residents, who are COVID-19 negative and returned from community based care facilities, remain in the Isolation Unit for protective monitoring. These Veteran Residents will be released from the Isolation Unit pending a negative test result this week. Two Veteran Residents who recovered from COVID-19 remain in community based physical therapy/rehabilitation programs. The Residential Facility has not had a new COVID-19 case in just over three weeks.

To date, the DVA has tested two hundred and sixteen Veteran Residents and Patients (many tested multiple times) for COVID-19 with twenty-four Veterans testing positive. Of the twenty-four Veteran Residents and Patients who tested positive to date, twenty-one have recovered from the virus. One Veteran Resident and two Veteran Patients with serious pre-existing medical conditions have passed away due to COVID-19. Four DVA staff members have tested positive for COVID-19, all of whom have recovered and returned to work.

Today, the DVA held our first Veteran Resident Bingo game since the beginning of the pandemic. The event, which took place outdoors, was a great success with eighteen Veterans participating. A Veteran Worker and Residential Staff Member facilitated a smooth operation which was socially distant and facemask compliant. Another Bingo event is scheduled for later this week.

We continue wing by wing testing in the Residential Facility as many restrictions are lifted across the agency's core function areas. This testing will allow for rapid determination as to whether reimplementations of certain COVID-19 mitigation measures are needed to protect the health, safety and welfare of Veterans and Staff.

The DVA encourages all eligible staff to take advantage of available COVID-19 offsite testing as we work with the Office of the State Comptroller to finalize a program for regular onsite testing of staff. DVA continues daily screenings 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>.