



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

**DVA COVID-19 Update: February 26, 2021**

The Department of Veterans Affairs (DVA) Healthcare Center (HCC) has no COVID-19 positive Veteran Patients in the HCC Isolation Unit. Five Veteran Patients are in self-isolation for monitoring as they recently returned from acute care or other community-based healthcare facilities or were recently admitted to the HCC. These Veterans have tested negative for the virus but are in Self-Isolation out of an abundance of caution until clinically cleared for release. The HCC continues weekly testing of all Veteran Patients with all Veteran Patients testing negative for the virus for a fourth week. We are also very pleased to report that we have reinstated visitation to the HCC this week.

The DVA Residential Facility had no new cases of COVID-19 Veteran Residents in nearly seven weeks and there are no Veteran Residents in the COVID-19 positive section of the Isolation Unit. There is one Veteran Resident in the protective monitoring Non-COVID section of the Isolation Unit as he recently returned from travel outside of the United States. This Veteran will be released after clinical clearance consistent with CDC and DPH guidelines. The DVA has adjusted testing of all Residential Veterans to once per month with additional testing of Veteran Vocational Therapeutic Program participants. To date the DVA has tested two hundred and forty Veteran Residents and Patients (most multiple times) for COVID-19 with sixty-nine testing positive or retesting positive since March 2020. Of those testing positive, sixty-three 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 related medical occurrence.

A total of fifty-seven DVA staff members tested positive for COVID-19 since the beginning of the pandemic. Fifty-six staff members have recovered and returned to work with only one remaining to recover and be cleared to return to work consistent with CDC and DPH guidelines. The DVA continues weekly COVID-19 testing of direct care and front-line staff all of whom tested negative for the virus for a third consecutive week. This testing will continue until further notice.

The DVA completed on campus CVS/Caremark vaccination clinics last week with just over ninety percent of our Veteran Residents and Patients and one-hundred and forty-seven of our DVA Healthcare and other direct care providers and front-line staff vaccinated. The DVA continued the process to become a direct COVID-19 vaccinator for our Veterans and Staff in the future.

The DVA staff, with the support of our Federal VA partners and other state agencies continue the hard work of meeting and overcoming the challenges of this pandemic in order to keep Veterans and staff safe. The DVA COVID-19 Mitigation Protocols, previous COVID-19 weekly updates and other important information is available at: <https://portal.ct.gov/DVA/Pages/DVA-COVID-19-Updates>.