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## For Immediate Release

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## Wilmington VA Medical Center to begin COVID-19 Vaccine Distribution with Moderna at its Outpatient Clinics in Delaware and southern New Jersey

**WILMINGTON, Del** — Wilmington Veterans Affairs Medical Center is scheduled to expand COVID-19 vaccinations with the Moderna COVID-19 vaccine at its Community Based Outpatient Clinics in Kent and Sussex counties in Delaware and Atlantic, Cape May and Cumberland counties in New Jersey beginning Dec. 30.

<u>Wilmington VA Medical Center rolled out its COVID-19 vaccination program Dec. 22</u> at the main medical center in Wilmington following the U.S. Food and Drug Administration's Emergency Use Authorization for this vaccine. Initial doses of the vaccine were offered to health care personnel and Veterans in the community living center.

"As vaccine supplies increase, our ultimate goal is to offer COVID-19 vaccination to all Veterans and employees who want to be vaccinated," said Vince Kane, Director of Wilmington VA Medical Center. "Initially, we will be focusing on vaccinating Veterans with higher risk factors such as age and preexisting health conditions."

As vaccines become available for more groups of Veterans, VA care teams will reach out to eligible Veterans to schedule vaccinations. **There is no need to preregister or come to a facility to sign up.** 

Even after receiving COVID-19 vaccination, employees and Veterans should continue:

- Wearing face coverings
- · Washing hands often
- Watching physical distancing

## Vaccine Background

Wilmington VA Medical Center is one of 113 VA Medical Centers across the country to receive the first limited supply of the <u>Moderna COVID-19 vaccine</u>. Sites were identified based on need for the vaccine according to <u>CDC's 1A</u> prioritization and capacity to store the vaccine at -20°C.

The Moderna COVID-19 vaccine was 94 percent effective in clinical trials in preventing COVID-19 disease. The vaccine is administered in two doses, 28 days apart. The side effects appear similar to those of other vaccines and are short-lived.

<u>Thirty-seven medical centers</u> began offering the Pfizer-BioNTech COVID-19 vaccine to health care personnel and Veterans Dec 14. Fifteen additional VA facilities recieved an allocation of Pfizer-BioNTech COVID-19 vaccine the week of Dec. 21.

Veterans can get up-to-date information on VA's <u>VA COVID-19 vaccine webpage</u>, which launched on Dec.11, and sign up to receive regular updates on the vaccine on the VA's <u>Stay Informed</u> page.

## More Information

Wilmington VA Medical Center provides health care services to approximately 33,000 Veterans through its main medical center and five CBOCs in Delaware and southern New Jersey. For more information, please visit <a href="https://www.wilmington.va.gov">www.wilmington.va.gov</a>.