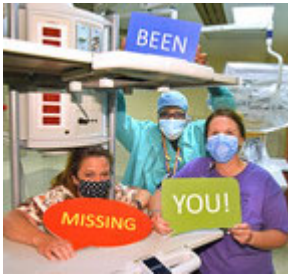




COMPASS

News and Information from your VA Medical Center
Central Arkansas Veterans Healthcare System

As vaccinations rise, entering CAVHS facilities gets one step easier



As more Veterans, caregivers and family members get their COVID-19 vaccination CAVHS continues to see an encouraging drop in positive cases of the virus. However, we remain vigilant while easing visitation and screening at our facilities. CAVHS continues to require face masks, social distancing, and hand hygiene in the fight to contain the transmission of COVID-19 and end the pandemic.

It is now easier to enter a CAVHS facility and limited numbers of visitors are being welcomed into the hospital, medical center and Community Based Outpatient Clinics (CBOCs).

Veterans with scheduled appointments at Fort Roots in North Little Rock will be greeted by a Red Coat Ambassador at the main and north entrances of the Eugene J. Towbin VA Medical Center (building 170).

Veterans entering the John L. McClellan Memorial Veterans Hospital in Little Rock will be greeted by Red Coat Ambassadors at the main and south entrances from 7:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., Monday through Friday. After 5:00 p.m. and on weekends, VA police will be located near the main entrance to assist.

Red Coat Ambassadors or security personnel will ensure that everyone entering a facility is wearing a mask, and will provide one if needed. Veterans and visitors will be screened at the clinic or unit to which they are reporting. Anyone with symptoms associated with COVID-19 will be isolated and testing will be arranged.

We're coming to you -- upcoming vaccination events

The CAVHS mobile vaccination team is headed out to VFWs and American Legion posts in an effort to get more Veterans vaccinated. Here some upcoming opportunities:

Visitation changes

Inpatients are now allowed **one visitor over the age of 18** at a time. Community Living Center limited face-to-face visits are available by appointment only and window visits continue to be available. Contact the nurse manager of unit social worker to arrange a visit.

- Visiting hours for the Medical/ Surgical and stepdown units are 10:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m.
- Visiting hours for Intensive Care Units (MICU and SICU) are 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.
- One to two visitors over the age of 18 may be allowed on the Palliative Care unit; visiting hours are flexible depending on the patient's status.

Visitors must check in with the unit prior to entering an inpatient room and are required to wear a mask.

Outpatient Veterans may have one visitor/caregiver over the age of 18 accompany them to their appointment.

- Little Rock VFW (1121 Gamble Road) -- Friday, May 7, 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.
- North Little Rock VFW (4400 Lynn Lane) -- Wednesday, May 12, 11:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.
- Beebe American Legion (115 W. Illinois St.) -- Saturday, May 15, 9:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.
- Monticello VFW (148 Veterans Drive) - Friday, June 4th, 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.



Talented, creative Veterans wanted

VA Creative Arts Festival now open for submissions



Creative and talented Veterans all over Arkansas are encouraged to show the world their special skill in the 2021 National Veterans Creative Arts Competition. Central Arkansas Veterans Healthcare System is accepting submissions through September 1, 2021.

Veterans enrolled with the VA who paint, draw, make things, sing, dance, play an instrument, perform skits, and write poems and short stories can call 501-541-5865 to make a submission. Entries will be exhibited September 18, 2021 at the Eugene J. Towbin VA Medical Center in North

Little Rock.

The CAVHS Creative Arts Festival is the celebration of talented Veterans competing in art, creative writing, dance, drama, and music. The annual program promotes healing of body and spirit, motivating Veterans to reach full potential, improve in dependence, achieve a healthier lifestyle, and enjoy a higher quality of life. VA uses the creative arts as a form of rehabilitative treatment to help Veterans recover from, and cope with, physical and emotional disabilities.

Local winners move on to the national competition and national winners are selected from thousands of Veteran entries from VA facilities across the nation.

Any enrolled Veteran wanting to submit an entry for this year's competition can contact Alyssa Welch at CAVHS, Alyssa.welch@va.gov, or call 501-541-5865.

Veterans talk about why they got the COVID-19 vaccine

Four Veteran volunteers talk about their experiences receiving the COVID-19 vaccine and why it's important for everyone to be vaccinated. Here Vietnam Veteran Carlos Cervantes encourages all fellow Vietnam Veterans to get vaccinated. Click the image to see the video.



Navy Veteran John Mancuso encourages fellow shipmates to get vaccinated against the COVID-19 virus. Click the image to hear John's message.

Veteran and CAVHS volunteer Margaret Robinson talks about why it is so important for Veterans to get vaccinated against the COVID-19 virus. Click the image to hear Margaret's message.



Air Force Veteran Ken Leslie talks about how easy it is to get the COVID-19 vaccine and encourages his fellow wingmen to help stem the pandemic by getting theirs. Click the image to view Ken's message.

VA



U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs

Veterans Health Administration

Central Arkansas Veterans Healthcare System

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