



COMPASS

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

COVID-19 variant shows importance of getting vaccinated, taking second dose



essence

Protecting Veterans, our staff, and those in the community, remains VA's top priority during the COVID-19 pandemic. As part of that commitment, we are currently following many COVID-19 variants, and we expect to see more variants arise. What is of critical importance is having as many people vaccinated as possible. Time is of the

Research tells us that the Delta variant, which has caused many hospitalizations and deaths in India, spreads more easily and quickly than other variants. According to the CDC, there is additional concern that the medical treatments we are using to treat COVID-19 patients may be less effective against this variant. Over the past month, the Delta variant has rapidly spread and expanded in the United States, and we believe it may soon become the dominant virus strain.

Research also shows that COVID-19 vaccines offer good protection against the variants we know most about, and widespread vaccination can prevent unnecessary deaths and hospitalizations. We believe that the newer types of vaccines we have now are true "pandemic fighters" and, by design, are well suited to adding new "targets" to fight these variants.

Have you gotten your first dose and don't think you need your second? Consider this: The Delta variant most severely impacts those who are either unvaccinated or only received their first of two-dose vaccine series, such as Pfizer-BioNTech or Moderna. If someone is late for their second dose, they should still get it. VA will provide the second doses to employees, Veterans or anyone who qualifies under the Save Lives Act such as spouses and caregivers no matter where they received their first dose, if that is more convenient.

If you are undecided about getting the vaccine and need more information to make a decision, check out our Vaccine Questions page, which includes videos, downloadable information and frequently asked question. Time is of the essence.

Safety Standdown focused on culture of safety

Central Arkansas Veterans Healthcare System held a Safety Standdown from June 17 to 22 to address culture of safety system-level themes, and to reinforce Veteran Health Administration's commitment to safe, high-quality, and reliable care.

Patient care and services were not affected by the standdown. Staff and leadership attended safety forums offered over four work days, with discussions focusing on a Culture of Safety in light of the Clarksburgh and Fayetteville Inspector General reports.

The standdown helped:

- Reinforce Just Culture principles and tools, ensuring that all employees know it's safe to speak up.
- Reinforce the Patient Safety is Number 1 priority, and highlight accountability.
- Provide communication tools for escalating risks and for reporting close calls and safety events.
- Reinforce a systems approach to proactively addressing and following



up on risks and issues as they arise.

- Reinforce the value of teamwork, mutual respect, clear communications, and inclusion.

CAVHS Primary Care behavioral health groups forming for virtual care

Central Arkansas Veterans Healthcare System's Primary Care Behavioral Health (PCBH) program is not offering three important opportunities that Veterans can take advantage of from the comfort of their homes.

Veterans experiencing pandemic stress or other behavioral health issues – emotional, social, environmental, occupational, financial, and/or spiritual – can join our virtual Healthy Living Resource Center. The Center is available via VA Video Connect (VVC) or telephone conference each Thursday from 11:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.

Veterans may call 404-397-1596 and use access code 1994706425. Or a Veteran may contact CAVHS' PCBH at 501-257-3925 to schedule a VVC session.

Veterans experiencing chronic pain may join the PCBH Chronic Pain Class. A new class starts the 1st Monday of each month and runs for four weeks from 8:30 to 10:00 a.m. via VVC or telephone conference. Veterans can call 501-257-3925 to enroll.

Veterans experiencing sleep issues may join our Sleep Class in Primary Care program. Veterans will be screened for common sleep problems, learn healthy sleep habits, and be re-trained on thinking related to sleep. The class runs every Monday from 1:00 to 2:30 p.m. via VVC or telephone conference. Veterans can call 501-257-3925 to sign up.

96-year-old Veteran honored with CAVHS coin

Meet Charley Rummel, 96-years-young and a WWII Veteran. We had the distinct honor of presenting him a CAVHS coin recently in Audiology. Mr. Rummel was in the infantry and fought in the Battle of the Bulge.



From left:, son-in-law Gary Dreher; Caitlyn Crowder; WWII Veteran Charley Rummel; Mercedes Lide. Central Arkansas Veterans Healthcare System presented the coin in honor of his service during the war. His portrait will be added to our Wall of Honor at Join L. McClellan Memorial Veterans Hospital in Little Rock.

VA



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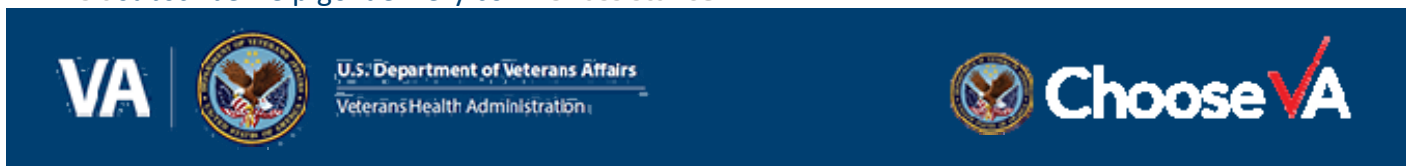
Veterans Health Administration

Central Arkansas Veterans Healthcare System

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