Winter 2023

Leban n n vance vance

PACT Act: By The Numbers



- PACT Act By the Numbers
- Toxic Exposure Screening Overview
- Four Easy Ways to Apply for VA Health Care
- My HealtheVet's
 20th Anniversary



Veteran talking to a group.

September 30 marked the end of the one-year special enrollment period for the PACT Act—The Sergeant First Class Heath Robinson Honoring Our Promise to Address Comprehensive Toxics (PACT) Act of 2022. September 2023 was one of VA's largest months ever for health care enrollments, with overall enrollments reaching 48,763 nationwide. This is nearly double the enrollment numbers for September 2022 and the second-highest month of enrollments in VA's history. This increase can be attributed to a number of efforts, including an expanded communications and outreach campaign when VA began promoting PACT Act over a year ago.

Check out the numbers of Veterans at Lebanon VAMC during FY2023 who are eligible for VA benefits as well as

Choose VA



36,309 Unique Veterans Screened

toxic exposure screenings (TES) due to the PACT Act:

14,391 Unique Veterans Reporting at Least One Concern



40% Percentage of Veterans Reporting Exposure Most Common TES Concerns:

34%	Burn Pits
31%	Agent Orange
13%	Other
12%	Camp LeJune
5%	Gulf War
5%	Radiation

The PACT Act expands VA health care and benefits for Veterans exposed to burn pits and other toxic substances. Every enrolled Veteran will receive an initial TES and a follow-up screening at least every five years. Veterans who are not enrolled, but who are eligible to enroll, will have an opportunity to enroll and receive the screening.

Talk to an enrollment specialist in Lebanon VAMC's Central Business Office at 717-272-6000 to find out more about your eligibility.

Toxic Exposure Screenings (TES) Overview

During your TES, you will be asked questions about potential exposure to an open burn pit or other hazards commonly associated with military environmental exposure. If you answer yes, you may be connected to support and resources, including a review by your primary care team or provider.

TOXIC EXPOSURE SCREENING AT A GLANCE

WHAT IT IS



A CONVERSATION STARTER

The screening asks Veterans if they believe they experienced toxic exposures while serving in the U.S. Armed Forces.



A CONNECTION

Veterans will be offered connections and information on benefits, registry exams, and clinical resources, as appropriate.



A RECORD

Veterans' responses are added to the VA medical record to be included as part of their care.



This approach includes exposure concerns as a cornerstone of Veteran care across their lifetime.

WHAT IT IS NOT



A COMPREHENSIVE EXAM

No specific diagnostic tests or physical exams are indicated to screen for illness based solely on self-reported exposure to toxins.



A PATH TO BENEFITS

The screening does not play a role in determining disability compensation, but Veterans who report exposures will receive information about <u>filing a claim</u>.



A VERIFICATION OF EXPOSURE

The screening provides no legal or medical verification.



A REGISTRY EVALUATION

The screening is not part of VA's <u>environmental health registries</u> and does not serve as a registry evaluation.

Four Easy Ways to Apply for VA Health Care

Even if you don't need VA care right now, you may need it in the future—and once you're enrolled, you have access for life. VA is the best, most affordable health care in America for Veterans.



va.gov/health-care/apply/application/introduction





MAIL:

VA Form 10-10EZ to: Health Eligibility Center 2957 Clairmont Rd. Suite 200 Atlanta, GA 30329



Call Lebanon VAMC's Central Business Office at 717-272-6000 to make an appointment.

Apply in-person at: 1700 South Lincoln Avenue Lebanon, PA 17042

Please bring a copy of your DD-214 and a valid form of identification with you.

My HealtheVet's 20th Anniversary

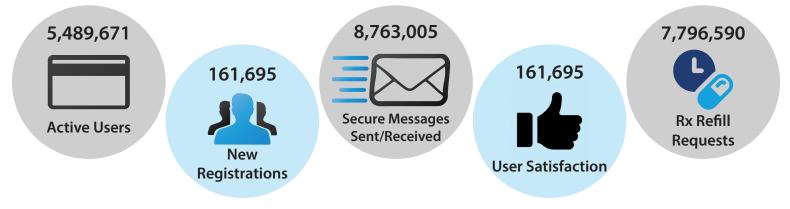
Veterans Day in 2023 marked My HealtheVet's 20th anniversary. As VA's online patient portal, My HealtheVet is a key part of VA care. My HealtheVet is a pioneer in patient portal technology. The platform was piloted in 1999 at 9 VA medical centers across the country. It launched nationally on Veterans Day, November 11, 2003.

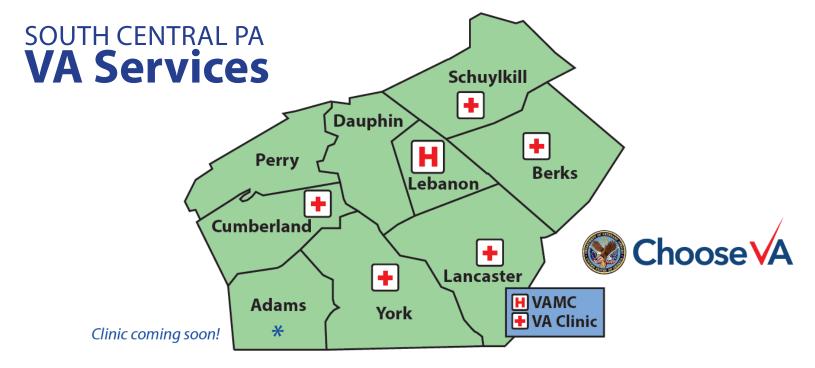
The portal's first features included trusted health information, an overview of VA benefits, and a health calendar. Soon after launching, My HealtheVet added a personal health record. This allows Veterans to enter their own health information.

Veterans have now used My HealtheVet to request over 255 million prescription refills. They've sent over 204 million secure messages and downloaded over 59 million health record files. And features pioneered by My HealtheVet, like VA Blue Button, have become standard on inpatient portals around the world.

To sign up for My HealtheVet visit myhealth.va.gov/mhv-portal-web/home.

My HealtheVet by the Numbers:





HEALTH CARE SERVICES

VA HOSPITAL

LEBANON VA MEDICAL CENTER 1700 South Lincoln Avenue Lebanon, PA 17042 717-272-6621 | 1-800-409-8771 va.gov/lebanon-health-care

VA CLINICS

ADAMS COUNTY VA CLINIC *Stay tuned - coming soon!

BERKS COUNTY VA CLINIC

2762 Century Boulevard Wyomissing, PA 19610 484-220-2572

CUMBERLAND COUNTY VA CLINIC 5070 Ritter Road Mechanicsburg, PA 17055 717-590-1525

LANCASTER COUNTY VA CLINIC

212 Willow Valley Lakes Drive, Suite 208 Willow Street, PA 17584 717-740-4434

SCHUYLKILL COUNTY VA CLINIC

1410 Laurel Boulevard, Suite 2 Pottsville, PA 17901 570-628-5374

YORK COUNTY VA CLINIC

2251 Eastern Boulevard York, PA 17402 717-840-2730

Thank you for choosing VA!

OTHER VA SERVICES IN OUR SERVICE AREA*

VET CENTERS

Readjustment Counseling Services Learn more at <u>vetcenterva.gov</u>

LANCASTER VET CENTER

1817 Olde Homestead Lane Suite 207 Lancaster, PA 17601 717-283-0735

HARRISBURG VET CENTER

1500 North Second Street Suite 2 Harrisburg, PA 17102 717-782-3954

VA NATIONAL CEMETERY

FORT INDIANTOWN GAP NATIONAL CEMETARY 60 Indiantown Gap Road Annville, PA 17003 717-865-5254 Learn more at <u>cem.va.gov</u>

*These VA services/facilities are not managed by Lebanon VAMC

COMMON LEBANON VAMC CONTACTS

717-272-6621 | 1-800-409-8871Appointment Linex 5105Telephone Nursing Carex 6041Pharmacy Centerx 6009Auto Med Refill / Acct. & Appt. Infox 5991Enrollment / Eligibilityx 6000VETERANS CRISIS LINE988 then press 1

The Best Care Anywhere...The Best Employees Anywhere. Quality care at six locations in South Central PA.

Lebanon VA Medical Center

1700 South Lincoln Avenue Lebanon, PA 17042 717-272-6621 | 1-800-409-8771 va.gov/lebanon-health-care