



Welcome to our Telephone Town Hall

March 25, 2024



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AGENDA

- Introduction
- Services we offer and care locations
- PACT Act – What you need to know: Overview and new eligibility starting March 5th
- Overall Benefits of VA Care
- Our Focus Areas
- COMPACT Act – Suicide prevention is our top priority. Same day access at all of our locations, and COMPACT Act opens up care options for Veterans through local care facilities.
- How to get VA care
- Upcoming Events

Introduction



Zachary M. Sage
Executive Director
Marion VA Health Care System



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Marion VA Health Care System Locations

Full-Service Hospital: Marion, Illinois

- 24/7 Emergency Department
- Cardiac Cath Lab
- Inpatient Medical/Surgical
- Community Living Center (CLC): Long-stay, short-stay rehab, hospice/palliative
- Mental Health outpatient services
- Residential Rehabilitation Treatment Program (RRTP)
- Specialty Care outpatient services
- Full-service Lab and Pharmacy
- Imaging: X-ray, CT, MRI, Ultrasound

Health Care Center: Evansville, Indiana

- Primary Care
- Mental Health outpatient services
- Specialty care outpatient services
- Full-service Lab and Pharmacy
- Imaging: X-ray, CT, Ultrasound



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Locations: Community-Based Outpatient Clinics (CBOCs)

Illinois:

- Heartland Annex – Marion (just north of Heartland Hospital)
- Carbondale
- Harrisburg
- Mt. Vernon
- Effingham

Kentucky:

- Paducah
- Mayfield
- Owensboro
- Madisonville

Indiana:

- Vincennes

Each of these clinics offer Primary Care, Mental Health, and a variety of on-site specialty services. Mt. Vernon also offers Optometry.

All clinics have the capability to provide you convenient, high-quality specialty care using Clinical Video Telehealth (CVT).



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24/7 Access to Care

(833) 381-1943



VA HEALTH CHAT is the newest chat/text option that will quickly connect you with a VA Health Connect, Clinical Triage RN, with 24/7 availability. [Find it in your mobile app store.](#)

Send us a Secure Message

Use **My HealtheVet** to communicate securely with your VA care team to ask non-urgent health questions, send updates on your condition, and more.

My HealtheVet Help Desk

877-327-0022
Monday to Friday 7am - 7pm.

Please Don't Wait Till 8am.

Call 833-381-1943

**Your VA healthcare is now
available 24/7**

24/7

MEDICAL QUESTION?
Our trained nurses are here 24 hours a day to assist you

Primary Care

Urgent Care

Emergency Room

TELE EMERGENCY CARE



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PACT Act: What You Need to Know & New Eligibility

- **Expands VA health care** and benefits for Veterans exposed to burn pits, Agent Orange, and other toxic substances.
 - Adds 20+ more presumptive conditions for burn pits, Agent Orange, and other toxic exposures
 - Adds more presumptive-exposure locations for Agent Orange and radiation
 - Requires VA to provide a toxic exposure screening to every Veteran enrolled in VA health care
- **You're eligible to enroll now**—without needing to apply for disability benefits first—if you meet the basic service and discharge requirements and any of these descriptions are true for you:
 - You served in the Vietnam War, the Gulf War, Iraq, Afghanistan, or any other combat zone after 9/11, or
 - You deployed in support of the Global War on Terror, or
 - You were exposed to toxins or other hazards during military service at home or abroad
 - Specific toxins and hazards include burn pits, sand and dust, particulates, oil well or sulfur fires, chemicals, radiation, warfare agents, depleted uranium, herbicides, and other occupational hazards.

[The PACT Act And Your VA Benefits | Veterans Affairs](#)

PACT Act: Changes Effective March 5, 2024

New Eligibility:

- Veterans who participated in a toxic exposure risk activity (TERA), as defined by law at home or abroad, while serving on active duty, active duty for training, or inactive duty training.
- Veterans who were assigned to a duty station in (including airspace above) certain locations during specific periods of time:
 - On or after August 2, 1990, in the following countries: Bahrain, Iraq, Kuwait, Oman, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, Somalia, or the United Arab Emirates
 - On or after September 11, 2001, in the following countries: Afghanistan, Djibouti, Egypt, Jordan, Lebanon, Syria, Yemen, Uzbekistan, or any other country determined relevant by VA. (**Note:** VA has not determined any other country relevant at this time.)
- Veterans who were deployed in support of Operation Enduring Freedom, Operation Freedom's Sentinel, Operation Iraqi Freedom, Operation New Dawn, Operation Inherent Resolve, and Resolute Support Mission.
- If you meet these criteria, you may be **immediately eligible for VA care**.



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PACT Act: TERA Examples

Toxic Exposure Risk Activities (TERA):

- Air pollutants (burn pits, sand, dust, particulates, oil well fires, sulfur fires);
- Chemicals (pesticides, herbicides, depleted uranium with embedded shrapnel, contaminated water)
- Occupational hazards (asbestos, industrial solvents, lead, paints including chemical agent resistant coating, firefighting foams, fuels, vibration, noise);
- Radiation (nuclear weapons handling, maintenance and detonation, radioactive material, calibration and measurement sources, X-rays, radiation from military occupational exposure);
- Warfare agents (nerve agents, chemical and biological weapons)

[Military Exposures - Public Health \(va.gov\)](https://www.va.gov/military-exposures-public-health/)

PACT Act: What You Need to Know & New Eligibility



Conditions Presumed to be Service-Connected

As of August 10, 2022, a long list of new conditions are presumed to be service-connected due to various in-service toxic exposures. **APPLY NOW** at [VA.gov/PACT](https://va.gov/PACT) to expedite your claim and benefits.

- Asthma (diagnosed after service)
- Brain cancer
- Chronic bronchitis
- Chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD)
- Chronic rhinitis
- Chronic sinusitis
- Constrictive bronchiolitis or obliterative bronchiolitis
- Emphysema
- Gastrointestinal cancer of any type
- Glioblastoma
- Granulomatous disease
- Head cancer of any type
- High blood pressure (hypertension)
- Interstitial lung disease (ILD)
- Kidney cancer
- Lymphomatic cancer of any type
- Lymphoma of any type
- Melanoma
- Monoclonal gammopathy of undetermined significance (MGUS)
- Neck cancer
- Pancreatic cancer
- Pleuritis
- Pulmonary fibrosis
- Reproductive cancer of any type
- Respiratory (breathing-related) cancer of any type
- Sarcoidosis



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Overall Benefits of VA Care

- Familiarity with Veterans healthcare needs and military culture
- High-quality, timely care
- Low pharmacy co-pays
- Transportation support: Let's help you get to your appointments.
- Get care where you are – Virtual care options available at every site, including at your home
- Portable health record – Your record is accessible at all VA locations
- MyhealtheVet – Communicate with your care teams, refill medications, and review your records
- 24/7 access to care – Emergency Room in Marion, Tele-Emergency Room always available



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Our Focus Areas

- Commitment to high-quality, timely care for all Veterans
 - Care at our sites and care from community partners
- Prevention and wellness: Whole Health - What matters to you?
- Women's Health: Expansion of services
- Mental Health & Suicide Prevention: Our top clinical priority



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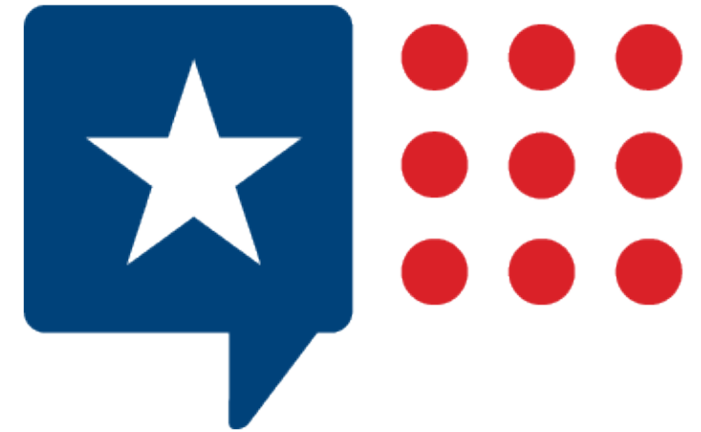


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COMPACT Act: Get Help During Crisis

- Veterans in suicidal crisis can go to any health care facility (VA or in the community) for **free emergency health care**, including transportation costs – and receive inpatient or crisis residential care for up to 30 days, and outpatient care for up to 90 days.
- Increases access to acute suicide care to an *additional 9-million unenrolled Veterans*.

Veterans Crisis Line



DIAL 988 then
PRESS 1



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How to get VA Health Care?

- Apply for VA benefits through the Veterans Benefits Administration (VBA)
 - Work with local Veteran Service Officers (county, Veteran Service Organizations)
- Enroll for VA Health Care
 - Submit 1010-EZ – Application for Health Benefits
 - [How To Apply For VA Health Care | Veterans Affairs](#)
 - Apply online: [Apply For Health Care | Veterans Affairs](#)
 - Visit one of our sites of care
- Call VA's National Enrollment Center: 1-877-222-8387



Upcoming Events

- March 28, 2024: Vietnam War 50th Anniversary Commemoration
 - Marion VA Hospital, Building 83, 2:00pm-3:00pm Central Time
- March 28, 2024: Vietnam War 50th Anniversary Commemoration
 - Evansville Health Care Center, 11:00am-1:00pm Central Time
- April 5, 2024: Veterans Resource Fair
 - Crane Naval Base, 8:00am-4:00pm Eastern Time
- April 11, 2024: Veterans Resource Fair
 - Paducah, Kentucky, Western KY Community Technical College, 5:30pm-7:30pm Central Time
- April 18, 2024: Veterans Health and Resource Fair
 - Evansville Health Care Center, 10:30am-1:00pm Central Time
- May 16, 2024: VA2K Walk and Roll
 - Marion VA Hospital, Meet at Flagpole, 11:00am-2:00pm
- May 18, 2024: Honoring Women Veterans Conference
 - University of Southern Indiana, 10:00am-3:00pm
- May 2024 (Date TBD): Ribbon Cutting for new Vincennes, Indiana, Clinic



Thank you for your service!



Stay Connected:

Facebook: [Marion VA Health Care System | Marion IL \(facebook.com\)](#)

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