

# PACT ACT HEALTH CARE ELIGIBILITY

The PACT Act is a law that expands VA health care and benefits for Veterans who may have been exposed to burn pits, Agent Orange, and other toxic substances. This law helps provide generations of Veterans—and their survivors—with the care and benefits they've earned and deserve. To be eligible to enroll in VA health care, Veterans must meet the minimum active-duty service requirements, have a qualifying discharge, and meet one or more eligibility requirements specific to VA health care. VA encourages all Veterans to apply to determine their enrollment eligibility.

## VIETNAM VETERANS

**If you served in the following countries during specific time periods, you can enroll in VA health care:**

- » Republic of Vietnam between January 9, 1962, and May 7, 1975
- » Thailand at any U.S. or Royal Thai base between January 9, 1962, and June 30, 1976
- » Laos between December 1, 1965, and September 30, 1969
- » Certain provinces in Cambodia between April 16, 1969, and April 30, 1969
- » Guam or American Samoa (or their territorial waters) between January 9, 1962, and July 31, 1980
- » Johnston Atoll (or a ship that called there) between January 1, 1972, and September 30, 1977

## GULF WAR AND POST-9/11 VETERANS

**You can enroll in VA health care if any of the following are true:**

- » You performed active duty while assigned to a duty station (including air space above):
  - 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.)
- » You deployed in support of the following contingency operations:
  - Operation Enduring Freedom, Operation Freedom's Sentinel, Operation Iraqi Freedom, Operation New Dawn, Operation Inherent Resolve, Resolute Support Mission
- » You served on active duty in a theater of combat operations or in combat against a hostile force during a period of hostilities after November 11, 1998, and you were discharged or released from active service within the last 10 years.

## VETERANS WHO WERE EXPOSED TO TOXINS AND OTHER HAZARDS DURING SERVICE

Regardless of when or where you served, if you were exposed to toxins and other hazards while serving our country, you can enroll in VA health care. Even if you never deployed outside the U.S., you may be eligible. If you may have been exposed to toxins or hazards while on qualifying training or active duty in the United States, you can enroll. Exposure to toxins and other hazards includes air pollutants, chemicals, occupational hazards, radiation, warfare agents, and more.

**Visit: [publichealth.va.gov/exposures/](https://publichealth.va.gov/exposures/) to learn more.**

**For more information about the screening and toxic exposures, check out these additional resources:**

[Military Exposures—Public Health](#)

[www.VA.gov/PACT](https://www.VA.gov/PACT)

**VA**



U.S. Department  
of Veterans Affairs

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## WHY VA?

VA provides the best and most affordable health care in America for Veterans, and Veterans enrolled in VA health care have better health outcomes than those who receive care elsewhere. That's because our clinicians know Veterans—they often are Veterans—and they know exactly how to help.



## WHAT DO I GET WITH VA HEALTH CARE?

VA provides world-class, comprehensive health care—including yearly physicals, health assessments, free screenings (including a toxic exposure screening), specialized care for issues related to military service, and more. This is true regardless of whether or not you have a service-connected condition. VA health care can serve as your sole source of health care or as a complement to other plans, and the care is portable, so the coverage follows you if you travel or relocate within the US.



## WHAT IF I DON'T FALL INTO ANY OF THE ABOVE CATEGORIES?

Many other Veterans are eligible to enroll in VA health care, even if they don't meet the eligibility standards listed above. We encourage you to apply today or call 877-222-8387 to learn more.



## HOW TO APPLY

There are many paths to eligibility, and applying is the best way to know if you qualify. If you are not currently enrolled in VA health care, apply now.

**Online:** [VA.gov/health-care/apply/application/introduction](https://www.va.gov/health-care/apply/application/introduction)

**Calling the toll-free hotline:** 877-222-8387

### Mailing VA Form 10-10EZ to:

Health Eligibility Center  
2957 Clairmont Rd., Suite 200  
Atlanta, GA 30329

**In person** at the nearest VA medical center or clinic

If you are already enrolled in VA health care and believe you performed service described above, you may be eligible for a priority group upgrade. Complete and submit [VA Form 10-10EZ](#), along with copies of any supporting documentation to be considered.



## FILE FOR BENEFITS

The PACT Act also added more than 20 presumptive disease categories related to toxic exposures.

Visit [VA.gov/PACT](https://www.va.gov/PACT) to learn more and file a disability claim.



For more information about the screening and toxic exposures, check out these additional resources:

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[www.VA.gov/PACT](https://www.va.gov/PACT)



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