U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs
COVID-19 Pandemic Response

Weekly Report: May 8–14, 2021

**VETERAN CARE**

VA has diagnosed **258,418** people with COVID-19

**41,227** COVID-19 patients admitted to VA facilities (as of May 11, 2021)

**232** current COVID-19 inpatients (as of May 13, 2021)

**243,553** COVID-19 patients now in convalescence

**3,616,522** tests completed

**3,052,883** people vaccinated (at least one dose)

- **2,648,899** Veterans
- **308,999** employees

**VACCINE & TESTING**

**VIRTUAL CARE**

**200,379** weekly home or off-site telehealth visits (from May 2–8, 2021)

**1,691%** increase in home or off-site telehealth visits (from Mar. 1, 2020–May 8, 2021)

**555,968** secure messages exchanged (from May 2–8, 2021)

**463,427** prescription refill requests placed (from May 2–8, 2021)

**3,677,925** authenticated patients (as of Apr. 30, 2021)

**FOURTH MISSION**

Supporting state & local health care systems

**1,715** Veterans admitted to care from State Veterans Homes (as of May 10, 2021)

**21** mission assignments (as of May 13, 2021)

**126** completed missions (as of May 13, 2021)

Provided **927,762** total pieces of personal protective equipment, including:

- **225,829** masks
- **559,770** gloves

All figures are as of May 14, 2021, unless otherwise noted.
**VA.gov** had 2,685,148 visitors (last 7 days)

**VA.gov/Coronavirus** had 2,655 visitors*

**VA.gov/Coronavirus-chatbot** had 321,990 visitors*

*Veteran Outreach figures are from May 8–14, 2021.

**3,289** calls to White House VA Hotline (last 7 days) (as of May 11, 2021)

**1,695** calls made to VA's COVID-19 Frequently Asked Questions Hotline (as of May 10–16, 2021)

**BOARD OF VETERANS’ APPEALS (BVA)**

Held 17,182 virtual hearings

Issued 116,300 decisions

*BVA figures are from Mar. 23, 2020–May 17, 2021.

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**STAFFING**

**106,184** VHA new hires

- **20,319** registered nurses & nurse practitioners
- **85,865** other hires

Staffing figures are from Nov. 17, 2020–Apr. 19, 2021.

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**MEDIA OUTREACH**

**2,475+** good news stories published

Wyoming Tribune Eagle (May 13, 2021)

“Cheyenne VA increases availability of telehealth services”

VAntage Point (May 9, 2021)

“South Texas VA implements SAVE LIVES Act”

VAntage Point (May 9, 2021)

“Two VA nurses named ‘Star Nurses’”

VA has published 104 COVID-19 related news releases

All figures in the Media Outreach section are from Feb. 2020–May 2021.

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**NATIONAL CEMETERY ADMINISTRATION**

**88,595** Veteran interments

- **7,181** COVID-19 related interments
- **81,414** other interments

**15,800** Veteran Legacy Memorial posts (va.gov/remember)

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**VETERANS BENEFITS ADMINISTRATION (VBA)**

**182,421** VA Video Connect appointments conducted for VA benefits*

**27,888** calls received at VBA National Call Center related to COVID-19

*VBA figures are from Mar. 16, 2020–May 14, 2021.

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All figures are as of May 14, 2021, unless otherwise noted.
1) VA is now offering walk-in vaccinations nationwide
All VA facilities that administer coronavirus vaccines are accepting walk-ins for all Veterans, spouses & caregivers, regardless of whether they otherwise qualify for VA care.
Read the full story.

2) VA now offering walk-in COVID vaccines for Vets, spouses & caregivers
VA is now offering COVID vaccines to Veterans & their families on a walk-in basis nationwide, even if they are not enrolled in VA health care.
Read the full story.

3) VA remains focused on COVID-19 while providing quality care
In the past 15 months, over 2.3 million Veterans across the nation have been fully vaccinated. Trust & confidence in VA health care are at an all-time high.
Read the full story.

4) VA continues to reduce opioid prescribing throughout the pandemic
In 2013, about 22% of all enrolled Veterans were using opioids or other types of medications to manage pain. In 2021 so far, that number is down to 7.9%.
Read the full story.

5) Keeping Veterans safe & healthy
At the Salem VA Health Care System, we've provided more than 21,000 doses of COVID-19 vaccine, & nationwide, VA has distributed vaccines to over 2.3 million Veterans.
Read the full story.

6) VA studies show how effective COVID-19 vaccines are in preventing infection
VA studies show just how effective the COVID-19 vaccines are in preventing infection. VA has been looking at this since the very first vaccine went into the arms of its nursing home Veterans.
Read the full story.