U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs
COVID-19 Pandemic Response
Weekly Report: March 13–19, 2021

VETERAN CARE
VA has diagnosed 238,041 people with COVID-19

36,597 COVID-19 patients admitted to VA facilities (as of Mar. 16, 2021)

338 current COVID-19 inpatients

223,544 COVID-19 patients now in convalescence

213,451 weekly home or off-site telehealth visits (Mar. 7–13, 2021)

1,808% increase in home or off-site telehealth visits (Mar. 1, 2020–Mar. 13, 2021)

VIRTUAL CARE

2,140,766 people vaccinated (at least one dose) (as of Mar. 18)

- 1,838,876 Veterans
- 282,883 employees

3,053,593 tests completed

465,662 prescription refill requests placed (from Mar. 7–13, 2021)

641,035 secure messages exchanged (from Mar. 7–13, 2021)

3,609,713 authenticated patients (as of Feb. 28, 2021)

VACCINE & TESTING

109 completed missions

488 COVID-19 non-Veteran patients in 15 states

1,585 Veterans admitted to care from State Veterans Homes

25 mission assignments

109 completed missions

Provided 923,638 total pieces of personal protective equipment, including:

- 221,687 masks
- 559,270 gloves

FOURTH MISSION

Supporting state & local health care systems

All figures are as of Mar. 19, 2021, unless otherwise noted.

Fourth Mission figures are as of Mar. 18, 2021.
### Staffing

- **VA.gov** had **3,447,550** visitors (last 7 days)
- **VA.gov/Coronavirus** had **6,862** visitors*
- **VA.gov/Coronavirus-chatbot** had **5,660** visitors*

**Veteran Outreach figures are from Mar. 13–19, 2021.**

### Board of Veterans’ Appeals (BVA)

- Held **13,597** virtual hearings
- Issued **99,623** decisions

**BVA figures are from Mar. 23, 2020–Mar. 19, 2021.**

### National Cemetery Administration

- **131,764** Veteran interments (from Mar. 9, 2020–Mar. 21, 2021)
  - **6,758** COVID-19 related interments
  - **125,006** other interments
- **9,075** Veteran Legacy Memorial posts ([va.gov/remember](http://va.gov/remember)) (as of Mar. 21, 2021)

**All figures are as of Mar. 19, 2021, unless otherwise noted.**

### Veterans Benefits Administration (VBA)

- **157,576** VA Video Connect appointments conducted for VA benefits*
- **25,827** calls received at VBA National Call Center related to COVID-19 (last 7 days)

**VBA figures are from Mar. 16, 2020–Mar. 19, 2021.**

### Media Outreach

- **1,850+** good news stories published

**All figures in the Media Outreach section are from Feb. 2020–Mar. 2021.**
1) VA hits COVID-19 milestone: 2 million Veterans vaccinated
VA has vaccinated 2 million Veterans with at least one dose of COVID-19 vaccine & is working with Veterans of color to bridge vaccination disparities.

Read the full story.

2) Coronavirus rates at VA medical centers fall to five-month low
Active cases of coronavirus among VA patients hit a five-month low this week, continuing a steady decline since the pandemic’s peak earlier this year.

Read the full story.

3) WWII Veteran spends pandemic isolation weaving 400 hats
While isolated due to COVID-19, 96-year-old Navy Veteran Tom Cornish spent his time weaving 400 winter hats for donation to the Salvation Army.

Read the full story.

4) VA offers COVID-19 vaccine to Arizona Veterans regardless of age
Enrolled Veterans of all ages in metro Phoenix, as well in southern & northern Arizona, can now get the COVID-19 vaccine.

Read the full story.

5) Veteran recovers from COVID-19, coma at VA Las Vegas
Marine Corps Veteran Ronald Pipkins, the first coronavirus case at North Las Vegas VAMC, returned to be vaccinated for COVID-19.

Read the full story.

6) Battle Creek VA gets vaccine to rural Michigan Veterans
The first mobile COVID-19 vaccination clinic for the Battle Creek VAMC was held a little more than an hour south of the facility in Sturgis, Michigan.

Read the full story.