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

VACCINE

60.6% Veteran users vaccinated
(as of Oct. 22, 2021)

4,316,738 people vaccinated
(at least one dose) (as of Oct. 22, 2021)

- 3,774,558 Veterans
- 387,437 employees
- 93,636 SAVE LIVES Act
- 29,985 other federal partners
- 31,122 other

Race

- 58.6% White
- 62.7% Black or African American
- 66.5% Asian
- 52.9% American Indian or Alaskan Native
- 58.9% Native Hawaiian or other Pacific Islander
- 54.7% Multiple

Rurality

- 55.3% rural
- 52.9% highly rural
- 63.1% urban

Vaccine figures by rurality are as of Oct. 8, 2021.

Vaccine figures by race are as of Sep. 24, 2021.

VETERAN CARE

VA has diagnosed 359,180 people with COVID-19

58,941 COVID-19 patients admitted to VA facilities

708 current COVID-19 inpatients

336,456 COVID-19 patients now in convalescence

5,285,872 tests completed

VIRTUAL CARE

147,853 weekly home or off-site telehealth visits (from Oct. 10–16, 2021)

1,221% increase in home or off-site telehealth visits (from Mar. 1, 2020–Oct. 16, 2021)

FOURTH MISSION

14 mission assignments

170 completed missions

All figures are as of Oct. 21, 2021, unless otherwise noted.
GOOD NEWS STORIES

1) Alabama firefighter saves Veteran’s life after being asked for directions
A VA firefighter saved a man’s life after being asked for directions along the interstate. Capt. Robert Smith had pulled to the side of the road when he noticed an older man pull up behind him.

Read the full story.

2) VA launching outreach and care networks for Long COVID
More than 240,000 Veterans have tested positive for COVID-19. Long-term effects of virus are still being understood, but 1 in 10 people who have contracted it may suffer from what has become known as “Long COVID.” VA is launching an extensive, multi-faceted approach to understanding and treating Long COVID.

Read the full story.

3) Teletherapy often leaves out older people. Here’s how a Washington researcher is trying to help them connect
The pandemic made remote video telehealth ubiquitous in Washington state. When VA psychiatrist Dr. Debby Tsuang began offering telehealth to her patients at high risk for COVID-19, many were reluctant at first to log on to a computer or tablet.

Read the full story.

4) How telehealth is helping address Veteran food insecurity
The COVID-19 pandemic has impacted Veterans’ access to food, and VA telehealth services are helping combat the issue. VA has added a food insecurity component to its homelessness screening, according VA’s national director of Nutrition and Food Services.

Read the full story.