U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs
COVID-19 Pandemic Response
Weekly Report: February 27 – March 5, 2021

VETERAN CARE

VA has diagnosed 231,792 people with COVID-19

35,194 COVID-19 patients admitted to VA facilities (as of Mar. 2, 2021)

465 current COVID-19 inpatients

216,052 COVID-19 patients now in convalescence

1,711,551 people vaccinated (at least one dose)

1,440,441 Veterans

271,110 employees

2,912,290 tests completed

80,168 tests processed for states (as of Feb. 29, 2021)

VIRTUAL CARE

219,482 weekly home or off-site telehealth visits (Feb. 21–27, 2021)

1,861% increase in home or off-site telehealth visits (Mar. 1, 2020–Feb. 27, 2021)

VIRTUAL CARE

678,696 secure messages exchanged (from Feb. 21–27, 2021)

478,163 prescription refill requests placed (from Feb. 21–27, 2021)

3,580,658 authenticated patients (as of Jan. 2021)

FOURTH MISSION

Supporting state & local health care systems

488 COVID-19 non-Veteran patients in 15 states (as of Feb. 26, 2021)

1,558 Veterans admitted to care from State Veterans Homes

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

221,687 masks

559,270 gloves

367 non-Veteran patients discharged home (as of Feb. 19, 2021)

2,453 VA staff support offered to non-VA facilities (as of Feb. 19, 2021)

All figures are as of Mar. 5, 2021, unless otherwise noted.
**VETERAN OUTREACH**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Platform</th>
<th>Visitors Last 7 Days</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>VA.gov</td>
<td>3,527,131</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>VA.gov/Coronavirus</td>
<td>5,899*</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>VA.gov/Coronavirus-chatbot</td>
<td>7,798*</td>
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</tbody>
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**VETERAN ENGAGEMENT**

3,055 calls to White House VA Hotline

6,621 calls made to VA's COVID-19 Frequently Asked Questions Hotline (as of Mar. 7, 2021)

**MEDIA OUTREACH**

- **1,710+ good news stories published**
- CBS New York (Mar. 3, 2021)  
  “COVID-19 vaccine: mega vaccination site opens at National Guard Armory in Yonkers”
- WFTS Tampa Bay (Mar. 4, 2021)  
  “James A. Haley Veterans’ Hospital receives doses of Janssen COVID-19 vaccine”
- The Daily World (Mar. 5, 2021)  
  “Mobile clinics bring COVID-19 vaccines to Washington’s rural Veterans”
- VA has published **91 COVID-19 related news releases**

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**STAFFING**

86,409 VHA new hires

- **16,356** registered nurses & nurse practitioners
- **70,053** other hires

BVA figures are from Mar. 23, 2020–Mar. 8, 2021.

**BOARD OF VETERANS’ APPEALS (BVA)**

- Held **12,509** virtual hearings
- Issued **95,320** decisions

BVA figures are from Mar. 16, 2020–Mar. 4, 2021.

**NATIONAL CEMETERY ADMINISTRATION**

130,198 Veteran interments  
(from Mar. 9, 2020–Mar. 5, 2021)

- **6,551** COVID-19 related interments
- **123,647** other interments

9,035 Veteran Legacy Memorial posts (va.gov/remember)

**VETERANS BENEFITS ADMINISTRATION (VBA)**

150,112 VA Video Connect appointments conducted for VA benefits*

25,029 calls received at VBA National Call Center related to COVID-19  
(last 7 days)

*All figures are as of Mar. 5, 2021, unless otherwise noted.*
1) VA receives Janssen COVID-19 vaccine

VA received 71,400 doses of the Janssen COVID-19 vaccine, authorized by the USDA under an Emergency Use Authorization.

Read the full story.

2) Homeless Veterans receive vaccine

Homeless Vets received the COVID-19 vaccine at VA’s Veterans Outreach Center in Reno, NV.

Read the full story.

3) Augusta VA vaccinates 10,000 Veterans

Increased supply & more flexible guidelines have allowed Augusta VA to vaccinate Veterans at a much quicker pace.

Read the full story.

4) Rural Alaska Veterans get COVID-19 vaccine

Veterans on remote Kodiak Island got their first dose of COVID-19 vaccine thanks to a partnership between the Alaska VA & the Kodiak Area Native Association.

Read the full story.

5) All Miami VA patients can get COVID-19 vaccine

All area Veterans who are patients at Miami VA can now get the COVID-19 vaccine regardless of age or medical condition.

Read the full story.

6) Almost all Bedford VA home care patients vaccinated

The Bedford VA has a vaccination rate of more than 90% among the participants in its home-based primary care program.

Read the full story.