VETERAN CARE

VA has diagnosed 108,190 Veterans with COVID-19

20,155 COVID-19 patients admitted to VA facilities
  1,206 current COVID-19 inpatients

VIRTUAL CARE

124,170 weekly home or off-site telehealth visits (Nov. 22–28)

1,010% increase in home or off-site telehealth visits (Mar. 1–Nov. 28)

TESTING

VA has tested 1,065,712 Veterans & employees for COVID-19

9.21m patients currently enrolled in VA health care

87,283 COVID-19 patients have reached convalescence

79,092 tests processed on behalf of states (as of Dec. 4)

TESTING

1,248 Veterans admitted to care from State Veterans Homes (as of Nov. 30)

30 testing kits provided to WY community hospitals*

1,500 cloth face coverings donated to GA community organizations*

Provided 908,508 total pieces of personal protective equipment (PPE)*, including:

213,774+ masks

555,170+ gloves

FOURTH MISSION

Supporting state & local health care systems

283 non-Veteran patients discharged home (as of Dec. 8)

2,224 VA staff members supporting non-VA facilities*

397 COVID-19 non-Veteran patients in 14 states (as of Dec. 8)

*Fourth Mission figures are as of Dec. 4.
VETERAN OUTREACH

VA.gov had 4,424,354 visitors
VA.gov/Coronavirus had 9,274 visitors
VA.gov/Coronavirus-chatbot had 4,420 visitors

Veteran Outreach figures are from Nov. 30–Dec. 6.

VETERAN ENGAGEMENT

68,585 COVID-19 related calls made to VA 411 & the White House VA Hotline
48,634 calls made to VA’s COVID-19 Frequently Asked Questions Hotline

Veteran Engagement figures are as of Dec. 6.

MEDIA OUTREACH

Secretary Wilkie has participated in 272 media opportunities related to VA’s response to COVID-19

- WBUR (Dec. 7, 2020)
  “VA calls on Veterans to participate in COVID-19 vaccine trials”
- Manchester Ink Link (Dec. 6, 2020)
  “Gratitude from U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs for NH PPE effort”
- 13 News Now (Dec. 7, 2020)
  “Hampton VA urges Vets to get their flu shots”

All figures in the Media Outreach section are from Feb.–Dec.

STAFFING

65,696 total VHA new hires (from Mar. 29–Nov. 17)
- 12,384 registered nurses & nurse practitioners
- 53,312 other hires

Staffing figures are from Oct. 1–Nov. 17.

BOARD OF VETERANS’ APPEALS (BVA)

Held 7,000 virtual hearings
Issued 70,991 decisions

BVA figures are from Mar. 23–Dec. 7.

NATIONAL CEMETERY ADMINISTRATION

97,846 total Veteran interments (since Mar. 9)
- 4,026 COVID-19 related interments
- 93,820 other interments

8,885 Veteran Legacy Memorial posts (va.gov/remember) (as of Nov. 30)

All figures are as of Dec. 7, 2020, unless otherwise noted.

VETERANS BENEFITS ADMINISTRATION (VBA)

22,145 calls received at VBA National Call Center related to COVID-19 (from Mar. 16–Dec. 4)

119,591 VA Video Connect appointments conducted for VA benefits*

5,379,462 Veterans in 50 states & 7 VSOs reached through 106 tele-town halls held to discuss Blue Water Navy, VBBP, & Solid Start Programs (from Mar. 16–Nov. 30)

*VBA figures as of Dec. 4.
1) Wilmington VAMC recognizes volunteers
Due to COVID-19, the Wilmington VAMC annual volunteer award & recognition banquet was reimagined as a drive-thru event where volunteers received a meal & reconnected with others safely from their vehicles.
Read the full story.

2) TVHS confronting domestic violence during COVID-19
TN Valley Healthcare System is raising awareness about domestic violence (which has risen due to added stress from COVID-19); 450+ participants from Greece, the UK, US, & Canada registered for a recent seminar.
Read the full story.

3) Vettes to Vets donates $17k to VA Bedford
Last year’s Vettes to Vets, an annual fundraiser at the Bedford VA, brought 700+ Corvettes from the Northeast & Canada for Veterans to view. Even though the event was canceled due COVID-19, the organizers raised $17k for the facility.
Read the full story.

4) Veterans find new way to serve: volunteering for COVID-19 vaccine trials
As if 26 years in the Army weren’t enough for retired Col. Herminio Blas-irizarry, he is answering the call to serve again. This time, he’s a volunteer for the COVID-19 vaccine trial at the Tampa VAMC.
Read the full story.

5) Army Veteran survives two national pandemics
WWII Army Veteran Milton Zaczek survived two pandemics (1918 influenza & COVID-19). “The food was great, but I missed my home & my own bed,” said Zaczek after his discharge from the Prescott VAMC.
Read the full story.

6) Meditation promotes love, kindness
The COVID-19 pandemic has changed the way we live our lives; Truman VA’s Whole Health offers several programs to help Veterans regain control & continue to live their lives to the fullest.
Read the full story.