U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs
COVID-19 Pandemic Response
Weekly Report: April 3–9, 2021

VETERAN CARE

VA has diagnosed 245,692 people with COVID-19

311 current COVID-19 inpatients

229,881 COVID-19 patients now in convalescence

38,232 COVID-19 patients admitted to VA facilities (as of Apr. 6, 2021)

245,692 people with COVID-19

2,645,827 people vaccinated (at least one dose)

2,320,956 Veterans

298,891 employees

VACCINE & TESTING

3,250,531 tests completed

VIRTUAL CARE

192,162 weekly home or off-site telehealth visits (from Mar. 28–Apr. 3, 2021)

1,617% increase in home or off-site telehealth visits (from Mar. 1, 2020–Apr. 3, 2021)

570,274 secure messages exchanged (from Mar. 28–Apr. 3, 2021)

449,636 prescription refill requests placed (from Mar. 28–Apr. 3, 2021)

3,646,663 authenticated patients (as of Mar. 31, 2021)

FOURTH MISSION

Supporting state & local health care systems

1,618 Veterans admitted to care from State Veterans Homes (as of Apr. 5, 2021)

31 mission assignments (as of Apr. 6, 2021)

109 completed missions (as of Apr. 6, 2021)

Provided 923,987 total pieces of personal protective equipment, including:

221,787 masks

559,470 gloves

All figures are as of Apr. 9, 2021, unless otherwise noted.
**VETERAN OUTREACH**

VA.gov had **2,916,735** visitors (last 7 days)

VA.gov/Coronavirus had **4,782** visitors*

VA.gov/Coronavirus-chatbot had **312,590** visitors*

*Veteran Outreach figures are from Apr. 3–9, 2021.

**VETERAN ENGAGEMENT**

2,784 calls to White House VA Hotline
(last 7 days, as of Apr. 8, 2021)

2,535 calls made to VA’s COVID-19 Frequently Asked Questions Hotline (as of Apr. 10, 2021)

**MEDIA OUTREACH**

- **WUSA9 (Apr. 7, 2021)**
  “Top VA doctor shares plan to vaccinate millions of Veterans & issues the mission faces”

- **AARP (Apr. 7, 2021)**
  “VA warns Vets: don’t post vaccine cards on social media”

- **FOX Rochester (Apr. 9, 2021)**
  “VHA chief discusses vaccine hesitancy, equity”

2,260 good news stories published

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

**STAFFING**

93,812 VHA new hires

- **18,088** registered nurses & nurse practitioners
- **75,724** other hires

Staffing figures are from Mar. 29, 2020–Mar. 15, 2021.

**BOARD OF VETERANS’ APPEALS (BVA)**

- **14,731** virtual hearings
- **105,893** decisions

BVA figures are from Mar. 23, 2020–Apr. 12, 2021.

**NATIONAL CEMETERY ADMINISTRATION**

73,193 Veteran interments (as of Apr. 12, 2021)

- **6,939** COVID-19 related interments
- **66,254** other interments

9,600 Veteran Legacy Memorial posts (va.gov/remember)
(as of Apr. 12, 2021)

**VETERANS BENEFITS ADMINISTRATION (VBA)**

- **168,475** VA Video Connect appointments conducted for VA benefits*

27,119 calls received at VBA National Call Center related to COVID-19 (as of Apr. 8, 2021)

*VBA figures are from Mar. 16, 2020–Apr. 9, 2021.

All figures are as of Apr. 9, 2021, unless otherwise noted.
GOOD NEWS STORIES

1) Veterans, spouses & caregivers get J&J vaccines in Bernardston

VA Central Western Massachusetts has worked with community partners to provide over 15,000 COVID-19 vaccines to Veterans, their spouses & caregivers.

Read the full story.

2) Home-based primary care delivers vaccinations & commemorations

In addition to his 2nd COVID-19 vaccination, Army Veteran Gregorio Garcia received something special from South Texas VA nurse Laura Alexander: a Vietnam War 50 Year Commemoration lapel pin.

Read the full story.

3) Iowa City VA hosts vaccination clinic as eligibility opens up

Iowa City VAMC hosted a vaccination clinic in an effort to get more Veterans vaccinated. Veterans scheduled appointments in advance for the event, where about 900 got vaccinated.

Read the full story.

4) Retiree gives back to VA

Retired RN Maria Fruin vaccinates a Veteran at Salt Lake City VA. After three years of retirement, Fruin rejoined the workforce to help do her part during the pandemic.

Read the full story.

5) VA partners with Middlebury College for vaccination clinic

White River Junction VA organized a vaccination clinic in partnership with Middlebury College in Vermont, where vaccines will be available to Veterans & employees of the Department of Homeland Security.

Read the full story.

6) Hines VA vaccinates homebound Veterans

20 miles west of Chicago, Forres Barnes sits at the bedside of Jim Sauer, an 86-year-old Air Force Veteran, receiving his second COVID-19 vaccination.

Read the full story.