



U.S. Department  
of Veterans Affairs

# News Release

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## **VA announces initial plans for COVID-19 vaccine distribution**

**WASHINGTON** – The U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) today announced a preliminary plan for distributing COVID-19 vaccinations it will implement once the Food and Drug Administration issues an emergency use authorization for a vaccine.

VA has worked in close coordination with the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and Operation Warp Speed to plan for COVID-19 vaccination of VA staff and Veterans.

VA will first provide vaccinations to front-line VA health care workers and Veterans residing in long-term care units in 37 of its medical centers across the country.

The centers, listed below, were chosen for their ability to vaccinate large numbers of people and store the vaccines at extremely cold temperatures.

Health care workers will be among the first to receive vaccinations because they are at high risk for contracting and spreading COVID-19 to other staff members and patients, and their health is critical to ensuring the continued care of Veterans.

Veterans in VA's long-term care facilities will be the first patient group to be vaccinated. As vaccine supplies increase, additional Veterans will receive vaccinations based on factors such as age, existing health problems and other considerations that increase the risk of severe illness or death from COVID-19.

VA anticipates a limited vaccine supply immediately after FDA's approval, but expects more supplies to be available in short order.

"VA is well prepared and positioned to begin COVID-19 vaccinations," said VA Secretary Robert Wilkie. "Our ultimate goal is to offer it to all Veterans and employees who want to be vaccinated."

The 37 VA sites chosen for initial distribution of the vaccine will closely monitor patients and staff for side effects and log this information in its vaccine monitoring and tracking system. This is the same system VA uses to monitor reactions to all vaccines, including those for the flu and shingles.

VA will report directly to the CDC data on all vaccine doses administered by VA. The department will also provide general, public updates on the number of people who receive the vaccination at these sites, similar to how VA posts COVID-19 testing figures.

The 37 VA sites are spread throughout the country and include:

- Birmingham (AL) VA Health Care System
- Phoenix (AZ) VA Health Care System
- Greater Los Angeles (CA) VA Health Care System
- Palo Alto (CA) VA Health Care System
- Eastern Colorado (CO) VA Health Care System
- Connecticut (West Haven Campus) VA Health Care System
- Washington DC VA Health Care System
- Orlando (FL) VA Health Care System
- Augusta (GA) VA Health Care System
- Edward J. Hines Jr. VA Hospital (IL)
- Lexington (KY) VA Health Care System
- Southeast Louisiana (New Orleans) VA Health Care System
- Maryland (Baltimore) VA Health Care System
- Bedford (MA) VA Health Care System
- Ann Arbor (MI) VA Health Care System
- Minneapolis (MN) VA Health Care System
- Harry S Truman Memorial Veterans Hospital (Columbia MO)
- St. Louis (MO) VA Health Care System
- Omaha (NE) VA Health Care System

Southern Nevada (North Las Vegas) VA Health Care System  
Raymond G. Murphy (NM) VA Health Care System  
New York Harbor (Brooklyn) VA Health Care System  
Western New York (Buffalo) VA Health Care System  
Durham (NC) VA Health Care System  
Cleveland (OH) VA Health Care System  
Oklahoma City (OK) VA Health Care System  
Portland (OR) VA Health Care System  
Corporal Michael J. Crescenz VA Medical Center (Philadelphia PA)  
Pittsburgh (PA) VA Health Care System  
Caribbean (Puerto Rico) VA Health Care System  
Memphis (TN) VA Health Care System  
Dallas (TX) VA Medical Center  
Michael E. DeBakey VA Health Care System (Houston TX)  
Audie L. Murphy VA Hospital (San Antonio TX)  
Richmond (VA) VA Health Care System  
Puget Sound (WA) VA Health Care System  
Milwaukee (WI) VA Health Care System

Veterans seeking additional information should visit the [VA COVID-19 vaccine webpage](#), contact their care team or visit their facility website.

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