Facility Locator

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What is it?

Facility Locator is VA's single source of truth for customers to find details about all VA and VA-approved facilities, across VHA, VBA, and NCA and Community Care. It serves many purposes, from finding basic facility address and phone information to preparing for a visit, to understanding eligibility for community care.

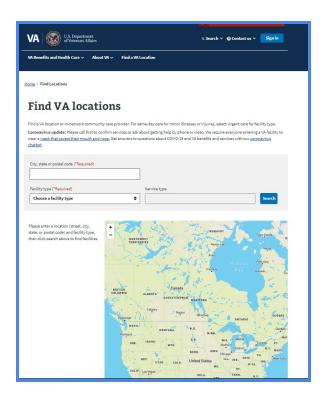
User Access

Who can access these tools?

Anyone can access VA.gov's Facility Locator. It is part of the unauthenticated experience and can be accessed publicly.

How can users access these tools?

Directly via https://www.va.gov/find-locations



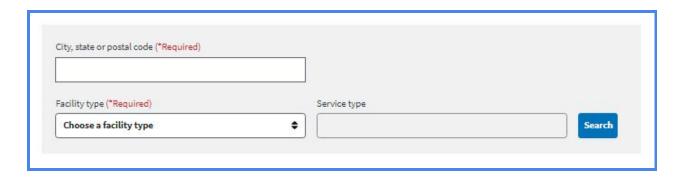
Or by selecting "Find a VA Location" from the https://www.va.gov homepage.

Navigation

Facility Locator has two primary pages.

Landing page (Search page)

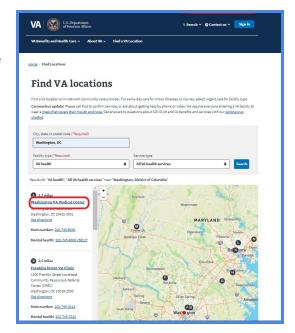
Facility searches are performed on this page by inputting location, VA facility type and service type (if indicated). The user can also enable their location through the browser when prompted. When the Veteran lands on the search page, the fields are empty by default, unless he/she has navigated from another page which auto-populates the Facility type field.



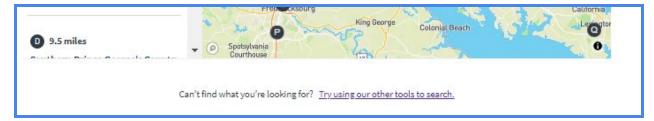
Facility Detail page

Additional information about the facility can be found on the Facility Detail page which is accessed by clicking on the name of the location in the search results box.

This type of page is not available for Community urgent care providers or pharmacies.



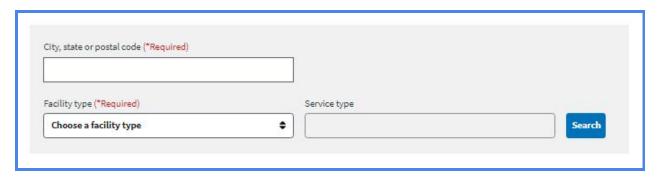
Legacy Directory Link



The link below the map connects users to the legacy directory. Once the modernized Facility Locator has reached parity with the legacy directory, this link will be sunset.

Search functionality

Location



The location field is mandatory. Users may enter the city, state and zip or enable location in their browser.

By default, unless the user enters a street address, the search will be performed based on the center point of the location parameters entered (the center of the city or zip code, for example).

VA facility type

The user must then choose a VA facility type from the drop down list of options. The field defaults to "Choose a facility type".

VA Health

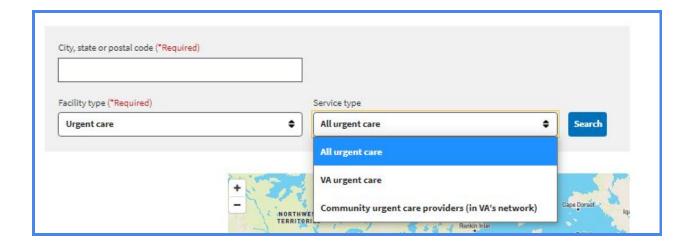
If VA health is selected, it defaults to All VA health services and the user should just click Search.



Urgent Care

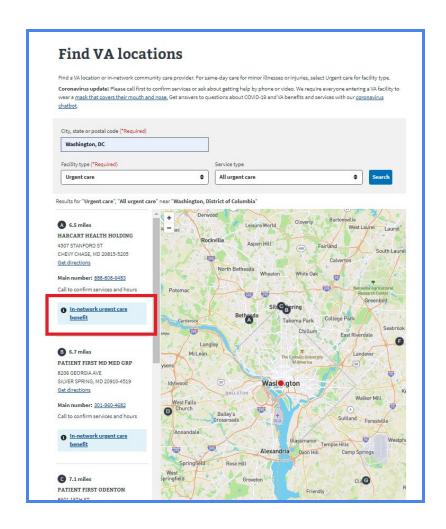
If *Urgent care* is selected, the user should choose

- VA urgent care to see results for VA owned and operated locations or
- Community urgent care providers (in VA's network) to view urgent care facilities and walk-in/retail locations.
- All urgent care to view a list containing both



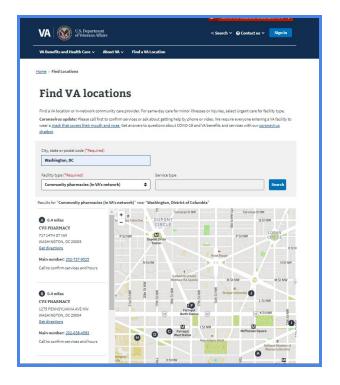
Alert for Community urgent care providers (in VA's network)

Users searching *All urgent care* or *Urgent care* plus *Community urgent care providers in VA's network* will see an alert within any Community care result cards. Clicking the button directs the user to a page from the Office of Community Care. The page provides information regarding the urgent care benefit, including billing information for the Veteran and providers.



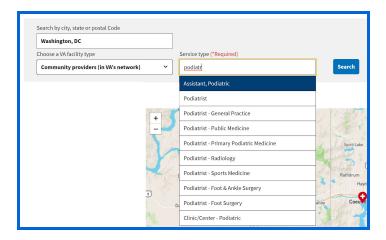
Community pharmacies (in VA's network)

If Community pharmacies (in VA's network) is selected, no service type is needed and the user should just click Search.



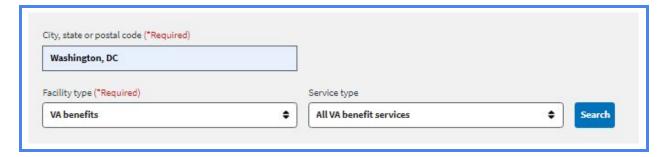
Community providers (in VA's network)

If Community providers (in VA's network) is selected, the user must populate the typeahead Service type field with a type of care (such as primary care or podiatry) and then select an option before clicking Search.



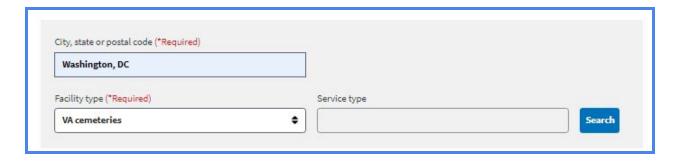
VA benefits

If *VA benefits* is selected, service type defaults to *All VA benefit services*. The user can also select an option from the *service type* dropdown before clicking *Search*.



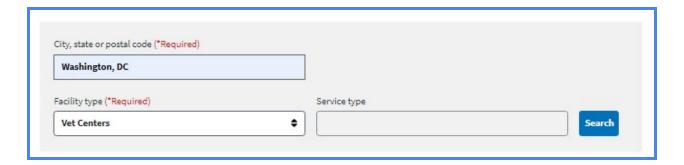
VA cemeteries

If VA Cemeteries is selected, no service type is needed and the user should just click Search.



Vet Centers

If Vet Centers is selected, no service type is needed and the user should just click Search.



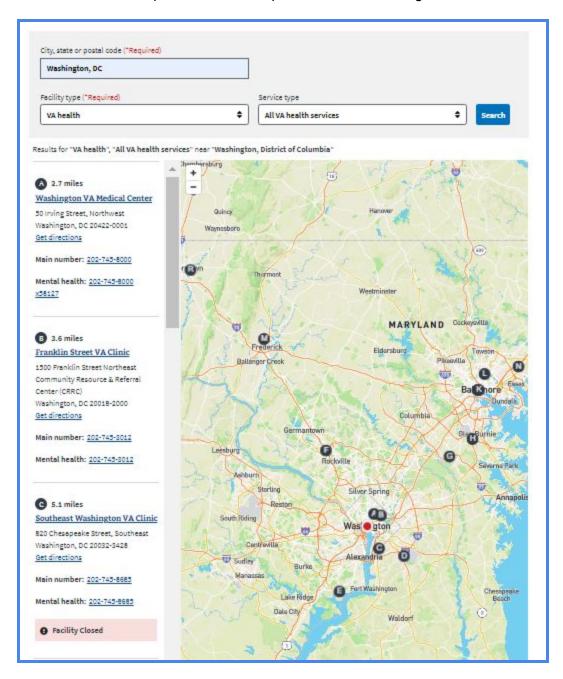
"Search this area of the map"

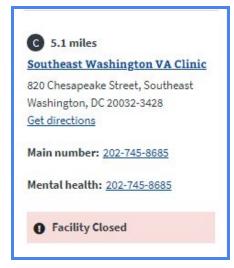
As of December 2020, once search results are returned, if the Veteran zooms or pans the map, a new "Search this area of the map" button displays at the top of the map. Clicking the button will trigger a new search.



Search results

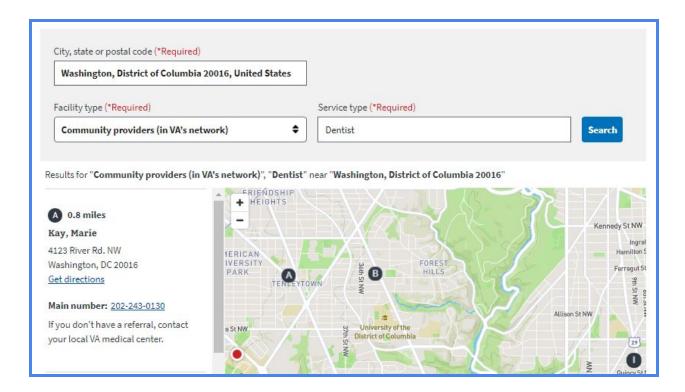
Regardless of VA facility or service type chosen, the results will be presented on one or more cards in a list next to the map. The results are presented in ascending order, based on distance.





The facility cards contain the same basic information for most facility types.

- Corresponding pin
- Distance
- Name (with link to facility detail page)
- Address
- Actionable link to directions
- Main phone number
- Mental Health phone number (VA Health facilities)
- Facility Operating status (if available)



Community providers (in VA's network) have referral language directing Veterans to call the facility if they have a referral and to contact their local VA medical center if they do not.

Facility Detail Pages

VA Facility types

VA facility types have detail pages presenting additional information about the location and may include a link to the web page.

It's important to note that the data is presented as it is provided via the API. If information is not available the entire block may be hidden.



Community providers (in VA's network)

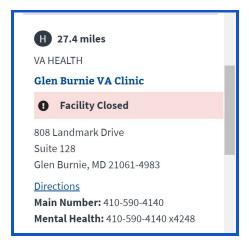
Facility detail pages are not available for Community providers (in VA's network), Community urgent care or Community pharmacies (in VA's network).

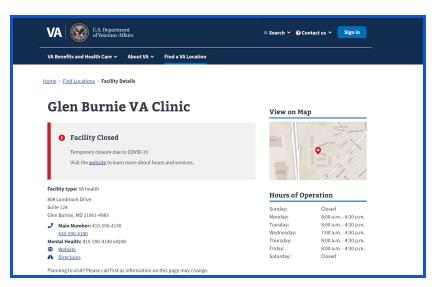
Facility-level operating status

As of April 2020, search result cards may include an alert for facility-level operating status. This alert is to inform Veterans that a location may have temporarily changed access to the facility or services.

The status options which may be displayed are:

- Facility Closed
- Limited services and hours
- Facility Notice





Veterans can learn more about the facility operating status by visiting the facility detail page.

It is expected that the details may be different depending on the facility. Not all facilities will use operating status alerts.

FAQ

What if the Veteran believes the info displayed about the facility is incorrect? (For example, they have received women's care at the facility but it isn't listed as a service.)

If the user reports inaccurate information (the hours of operation are not what they know them to be, for example), we have the following feedback options:

- For VA facilities (VHA, VBA, NCA and Vet Centers): Contact Center agents should email
 the name of the Facility (and other available info) and the missing or inaccurate detail to
 Dave Conlon (<u>david.conlon@va.gov</u>) and Michelle Middaugh
 (<u>michelle.middaugh@adhocteam.us</u>).
- For community care providers and pharmacies, Contact Center agents should email the name of the Facility (and other available info) and the missing or inaccurate detail to <u>VHAOCCPPMSPROJBUSPOCS@VA.GOV</u>, copying Tobie Wethington (Tobie.Wethington@va.gov), Dave Conlon (<u>david.conlon@va.gov</u>) and Michelle Middaugh (<u>michelle.middaugh@adhocteam.us</u>).

Update Log

Content	Section	Date
Contact info for community care providers updated with Tobie Wethington's information	FAQ	5.7.2020
Updated landing page image	User access	12.17.2020
Updated search box image and information about default field values	Navigation	12.17.2020
Updated image	Facility Detail page	12.17.2020
Updated image and description for Legacy Link	Legacy Directory Link	12.17.2020
Updated image	Search functionality > Location	12.17.2020
Updated description of the default for Facility type field	Search functionality > VA facility	12.17.2020
Updated image for VA health default	Search functionality > VA facility > VA health	12.17.2020
Updated image and description of dropdown options	Search functionality > VA facility > Urgent care	12.17.2020
Updated image and description of Community urgent care alert button	Search functionality > VA facility > Urgent care > Alert for Community urgent care providers (in VA's network)	12.17.2020
Inserted image and updated name to Community pharmacies (in VA's network). Removed footnote.	Search functionality > VA facility > Community pharmacies (in VA's network)	12.17.2020
Updated image	Search functionality > VA facility > VA benefits	12.17.2020

Updated image	Search functionality > VA facility > VA cemeteries	12.17.2020
Updated image	Search functionality > VA facility > Vet Centers	12.17.2020
Inserted section	Search functionality > Search this area of the map	12.17.2020
Updated image for map, search result list and individual card	Search results	12.17.2020
Updated image	Facility Detail pages > VA facility types	12.17.2020
Removed image and updated description	Facility Detail pages > Community providers	12.17.2020