



# U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs COVID-19 Pandemic Response

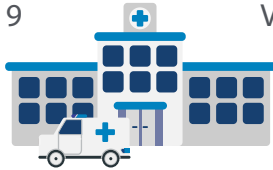
Weekly Report: February 6–12, 2021



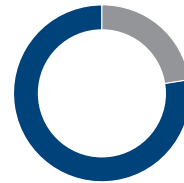
## VETERAN CARE

## VACCINE & TESTING

VA has diagnosed  
**218,587** people  
with COVID-19



**33,045** COVID-19  
patients admitted to  
VA facilities (as of Feb. 9)



**1,132,687** people vaccinated  
(at least one dose)

● **871,405** Veterans  
● **254,953** employees

**777** current  
COVID-19 inpatients

**200,969** COVID-19 patients  
now in convalescence

**2,702,969**  
total tests completed

**80,168** tests processed for states

## VIRTUAL CARE

**210,966** weekly home or off-site  
telehealth visits (Jan. 24–30)



**1,785%**  
increase in home or off-site  
telehealth visits (Mar. 1–Jan. 30)



**644,259** total secure  
messages exchanged  
last 7 days (as of Feb. 9)

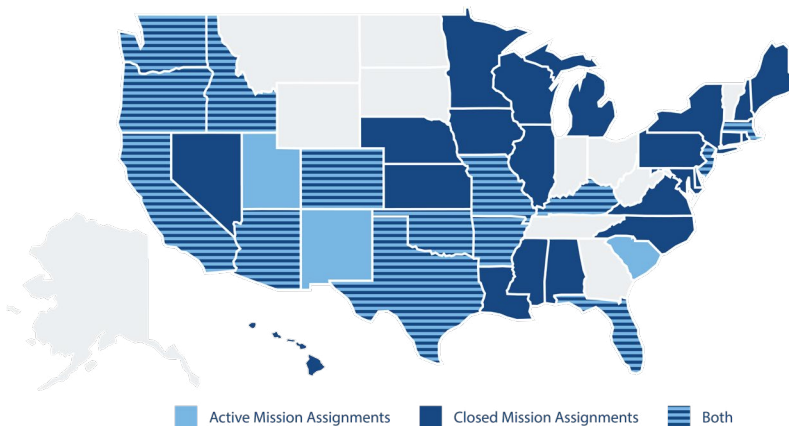
**465,749** prescription refill requests placed\*

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

\*Virtual Care figures are from Jan. 31–Feb. 6.

## FOURTH MISSION

### Supporting state & local health care systems



**486** COVID-19 non-Veteran patients  
in **15** states (as of Feb. 9)

**1,514** total Veterans admitted to care from  
State Veterans Homes (as of Feb. 11)

Provided **920,145** total pieces of personal  
protective equipment (as of Feb. 5),  
including:

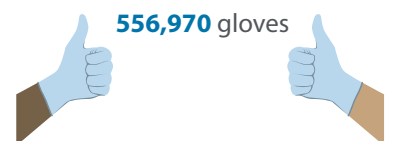
**367** non-Veteran  
patients discharged home

**2,453** VA staff support  
offered to non-VA facilities

**221,114** masks



**556,970** gloves



All figures are as of Feb. 12, 2021, unless otherwise noted.

## VETERAN OUTREACH

**3,480,704** visitors to [VA.gov](https://www.va.gov) last 7 days

[VA.gov/Coronavirus](https://www.va.gov/Coronavirus) had **8,819** visitors\*

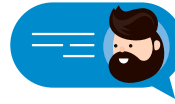
[VA.gov/Coronavirus-chatbot](https://www.va.gov/Coronavirus-chatbot) had **255,660** visitors\*



\*Veteran Outreach figures are from Feb. 1–7.

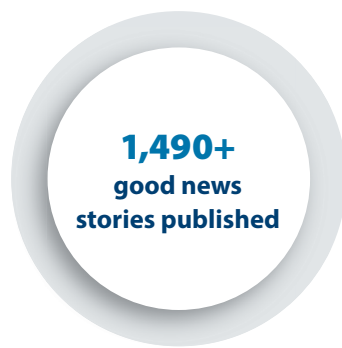
## VETERAN ENGAGEMENT

**2,806** calls to White House VA Hotline



**12,663** calls made to VA's COVID-19 Frequently Asked Questions Hotline (as of Feb. 7)

## MEDIA OUTREACH



**Fox 8 (Feb. 14, 2021)**

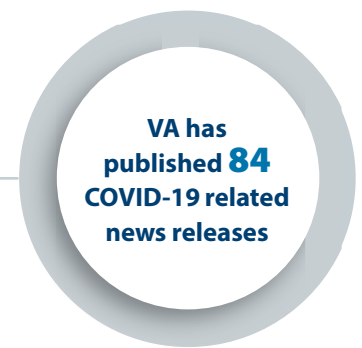
*"Married Vets celebrate Valentine's Day by getting COVID-19 vaccination"*

**Keloland.com (Feb. 14, 2021)**

*"The VA is offering Veterans an earlier shot at getting the COVID-19 vaccine"*

**WISTV (Feb. 15, 2021)**

*"Hundreds of SC Veterans get COVID-19 shots at mass vaccination clinic"*



*"VA receives additional 200,000 COVID-19 vaccine doses to administer to Veterans, employees"*

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

## STAFFING

**79,091** total VHA new hires



**15,064**

registered nurses & nurse practitioners



**64,027**

other hires

Staffing figures are from Mar. 29–Jan. 21.

## BOARD OF VETERANS' APPEALS (BVA)

Held **10,535**  
virtual hearings

Issued **87,078**  
decisions



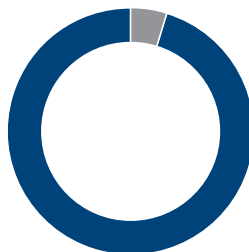
BVA figures are from Mar. 23–Feb. 8.

## NATIONAL CEMETERY ADMINISTRATION

**123,678** total Veteran interments (from Mar. 9–Feb. 8)

● **6,011** COVID-19 related interments

● **117,667** other interments



**9,020** Veteran Legacy Memorial posts ([va.gov/remember](https://www.va.gov/remember)) (as of Feb. 8)

## VETERANS BENEFITS ADMINISTRATION (VBA)

**138,771**  
VA Video Connect appointments conducted for VA benefits (from Mar. 16 Feb. 5)



**121,140**  
calls received at VBA National Contact Center last 7 days

All figures are as of Feb. 12, 2021, unless otherwise noted.



1

### 1) Shreveport VA reaches 5,000 vaccine milestone

Vietnam Veteran William O. Smith, Jr. was the 5,000th person to receive the COVID-19 vaccine at the Shreveport VA. "I hope all Veterans will come on & get their shots," he said.

[Read the full story.](#)

### 2) Las Vegas VA begins vaccinating Pahrump Veterans

Frank Duszynski Jr., 72, received his first dose of COVID-19 vaccine at the Pahrump VA Clinic—one of more than 400 Veterans to get the vaccine.

[Read the full story.](#)



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### 3) AL State Veterans Homes use ionization to combat COVID-19

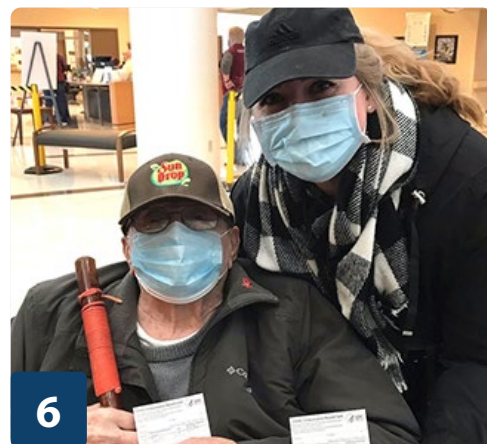
State Veterans homes across Alabama installed HVAC ionization systems to reduce infectious agents such as mold, bacteria, allergens & viruses including COVID-19.

[Read the full story.](#)

### 4) MT VA at forefront of rural vaccine program

A small plane glided into Glacier Park International Airport with precious cargo on board: 400 Moderna vaccine doses for high-risk Veterans in a remote part of Montana.

[Read the full story.](#)



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### 5) From Omaha Beach to the frontline of COVID-19

VA NY Harbor Healthcare System had the privilege of administering the COVID-19 vaccine to 100-year-old WWII Veteran & Holocaust survivor Edmund "Eddie" Rosenblum.

[Read the full story.](#)

### 6) Veteran, granddaughter get vaccine at same time

Marissa Miellke & her grandfather, Donald "Gus" Van Remortel, showed off their COVID vaccination cards after they got their shots at the same time at the Green Bay VA clinic.

[Read the full story.](#)

VA's COVID-19 Frequently Asked Questions Hotline: 844-698-2311

Veterans Crisis Line: 800-273-8255 & Press 1

VA 411: 844-698-2311

Call your VA medical center ([VA.gov/find-locations](#)) before visiting. This helps us protect you, other Veterans & medical staff.

**VA**



U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs

[VA.gov/Coronavirus](#)

[VA Coronavirus: FAQs page](#)

Download your VA Welcome Kit: [VA.gov/welcome-kit](#)

Sign up for weekly VA email updates at: [VA.gov/VetResources](#)