



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

Weekly Report: March 13–19, 2021



VETERAN CARE

VACCINE & TESTING

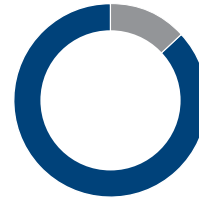
VA has diagnosed
238,041 people
with COVID-19

36,597 COVID-19 patients
admitted to VA facilities
(as of Mar. 16, 2021)



338 current
COVID-19 inpatients

223,544 COVID-19 patients
now in convalescence



2,140,766 people vaccinated
(at least one dose) (as of Mar. 18)

● **1,838,876** Veterans
● **282,883** employees

3,053,593
tests completed



VIRTUAL CARE

213,451 weekly home or off-site
telehealth visits (Mar. 7–13, 2021)



641,035 secure
messages exchanged
(from Mar. 7–13, 2021)



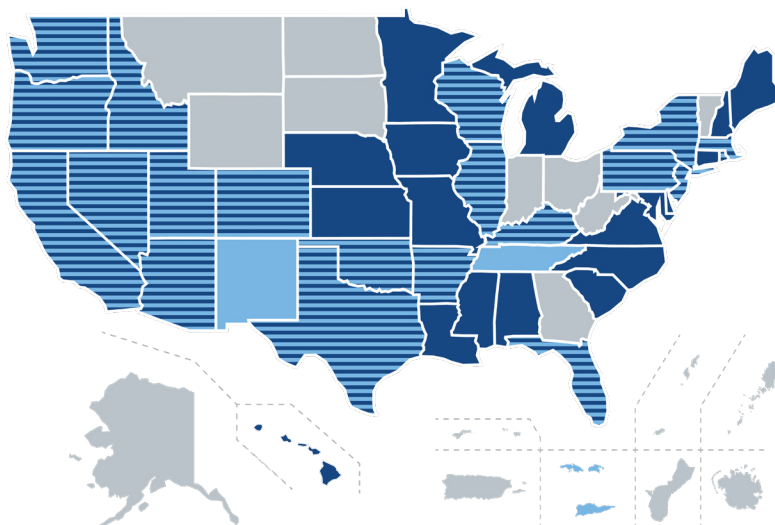
1,808% increase in home
or off-site telehealth visits
(Mar. 1, 2020–Mar. 13, 2021)

465,662 prescription refill requests placed
(from Mar. 7–13, 2021)

3,609,713 authenticated patients (as of Feb. 28, 2021)

FOURTH MISSION

Supporting state & local health care systems



■ Active Mission Assignments ■ Closed Mission Assignments ■ Both

1,585 Veterans admitted to
care from State Veterans Homes

488 COVID-19 non-Veteran
patients in **15** states



25 mission assignments

109 completed missions

Provided **923,638** total pieces of personal
protective equipment, including:

221,687 masks



559,270 gloves



VETERAN OUTREACH

[VA.gov](https://www.va.gov) had **3,447,550** visitors (last 7 days)

[VA.gov/Coronavirus](https://www.va.gov/Coronavirus) had **6,862** visitors*

[VA.gov/Coronavirus-chatbot](https://www.va.gov/Coronavirus-chatbot) had **5,660** visitors*



VETERAN ENGAGEMENT

3,011 calls to White House VA Hotline



3,451 calls made to VA's COVID-19 Frequently Asked Questions Hotline (as of Mar. 21, 2021)

*Veteran Outreach figures are from Mar. 13–19, 2021.

MEDIA OUTREACH

1,850+
good news
stories published

Military Times (Mar. 20, 2021)

"All Veterans, their spouses & caregivers eligible to get COVID-19 vaccine through VA under newly-passed bill"

MSNBC (Mar. 18, 2021)

"VA to use funds from COVID-19 relief for health care priorities, says Secretary"

KMOV4 (Mar. 19, 2021)

"Veterans of all ages can call VA to get a COVID-19 vaccine appointment"

VA has
published **95**
COVID-19 related
news releases

"VA, American Red Cross team up to provide virtual social engagement for Veterans during COVID-19 pandemic"

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

STAFFING

BOARD OF VETERANS' APPEALS (BVA)

86,409 VHA new hires



16,356
registered nurses & nurse practitioners



70,053
other hires

Held **13,597**
virtual hearings

Issued **99,623**
decisions



Staffing figures are from Mar. 29, 2020–Feb. 18, 2021.

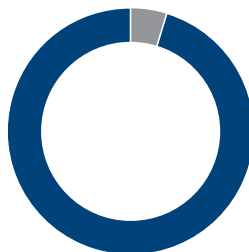
BVA figures are from Mar. 23, 2020–Mar. 19, 2021.

NATIONAL CEMETERY ADMINISTRATION

VETERANS BENEFITS ADMINISTRATION (VBA)

131,764 Veteran interments
(from Mar. 9, 2020–Mar. 21, 2021)

- **6,758** COVID-19 related interments
- **125,006** other interments



9,075 Veteran Legacy Memorial
posts ([va.gov/remember](https://www.va.gov/remember))
(as of Mar. 21, 2021)

157,576
VA Video
Connect
appointments
conducted for
VA benefits*



25,827
calls received at
VBA National Call
Center related to
COVID-19
(last 7 days)

All figures are as of Mar. 19, 2021, unless otherwise noted.

VBA figures are from Mar. 16, 2020–Mar. 19, 2021.



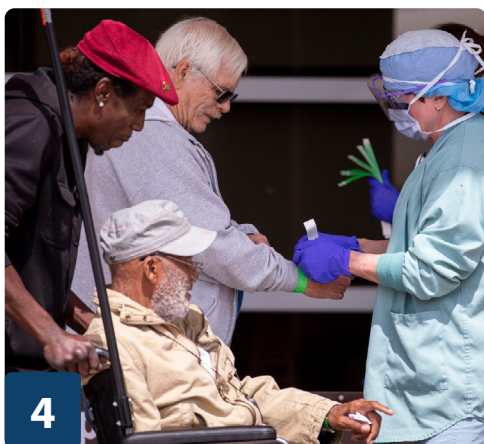
1



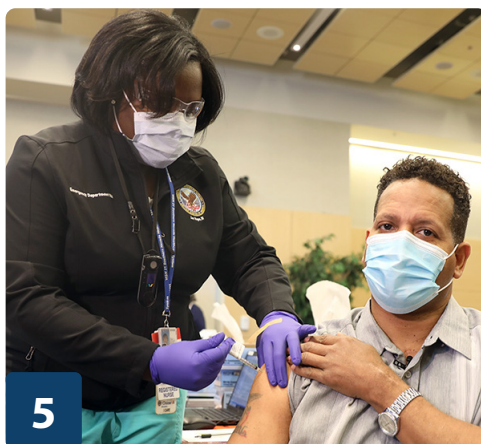
2



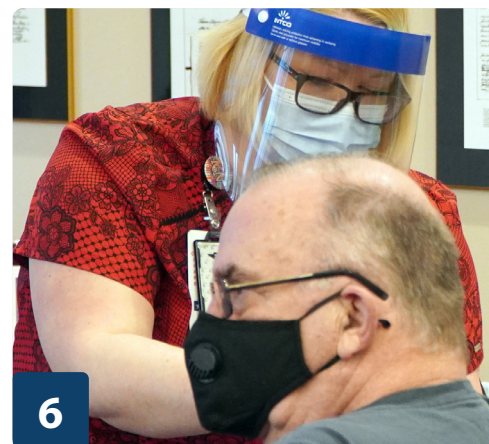
3



4



5



6

1) VA hits COVID-19 milestone: 2 million Veterans vaccinated

VA has vaccinated 2 million Veterans with at least one dose of COVID-19 vaccine & is working with Veterans of color to bridge vaccination disparities.

[Read the full story.](#)

2) Coronavirus rates at VA medical centers fall to five-month low

Active cases of coronavirus among VA patients hit a five-month low this week, continuing a steady decline since the pandemic's peak earlier this year.

[Read the full story.](#)

3) WWII Veteran spends pandemic isolation weaving 400 hats

While isolated due to COVID-19, 96-year-old Navy Veteran Tom Cornish spent his time weaving 400 winter hats for donation to the Salvation Army.

[Read the full story.](#)

4) VA offers COVID-19 vaccine to Arizona Veterans regardless of age

Enrolled Veterans of all ages in metro Phoenix, as well in southern & northern Arizona, can now get the COVID-19 vaccine.

[Read the full story.](#)

5) Veteran recovers from COVID-19, coma at VA Las Vegas

Marine Corps Veteran Ronald Pipkins, the first coronavirus case at North Las Vegas VAMC, returned to be vaccinated for COVID-19.

[Read the full story.](#)

6) Battle Creek VA gets vaccine to rural Michigan Veterans

The first mobile COVID-19 vaccination clinic for the Battle Creek VAMC was held a little more than an hour south of the facility in Sturgis, Michigan.

[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](#)