

**The New Mexico Department of Veterans Services**

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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**COVID-19 Vaccine Update From the NM VA Health Care System**

The New Mexico Department of Veterans Services (DVS) is reminding veterans in New Mexico that they can also get their COVID-19 vaccine from the New Mexico VA Health Care System (NMVAHCS).

The NMVAHCS is expanding its COVID-19 vaccinations under the SAVE LIVES Act and dependent on the readily available COVID-19 vaccine

supply. VA will continue to prioritize veterans who are eligible and

enrolled in VA care. As with the DOH option, pre-registration is also

required. “Walk-ins” are not allowed. No one will get a vaccine through the NMVAHCS without registering in advance for a vaccine appointment.

To register, VA-enrolled veterans can call the NMVAHCS at (505) 265-1711, and then using either of the following four extensions: 3915, 3916, 2910, or 2912. Once registered, the NMVAHCS will contact you when your vaccine is ready. The NMVAHCS will also contact you for your second dose or “booster” of the Moderna and Pfizer vaccines. (the Johnson & Johnson vaccine is a single dose vaccine)

For VA-enrolled and eligible veterans in the Albuquerque metro area, the vaccine will be given at a special drive-through clinic set up in the parking lot of the Albuquerque Raymond G. Murphy VA Medical Center’s main building. The following groups who are eligible for a COVID-19 vaccine at VA, as long as the vaccine supply is available are as follows:

• Veterans of all ages

• Spouses of a Veteran

• Caregivers of a Veteran

• Widowers of a Veteran

• Recipients of Civilian Health and Medical Program of the Department of

Veterans Affairs benefits (CHAMPVA)

• Anyone who served in the U.S. military - Reservists, National Guard and Coast

Guard, who are retired or were never activated

• All veterans regardless of Character of Discharge

Vaccines are also available at the 13 Community-Based Outpatient Clinics (CBOCs) managed by the NMVAHCS: Alamogordo, Artesia, Española, Farmington, Gallup, Las Vegas, Raton, Rio Rancho, Santa Fe, Silver City, Taos, Truth or Consequences, and Durango (Colorado).

The following three CBOC’s are not managed by the NMVAHCS: Clovis (under the jurisdiction of the Amarillo, TX VA Medical Center), Hobbs (Big Spring, TX), and Las Cruces (El Paso VA Medical Center). Veterans who call the main NMVAHCS number will be referred to these VA health care systems.

Veterans who are not enrolled in VA health care can enroll ahead of registering for a vaccine by also calling the above phone number. For more information about VA health care eligibility—and for online registration:

https://www.va.gov/health-care/eligibility/?fbclid=IwAR1PDKybCEaJ\_fDc6J28-4NklhY2ZzaL\_olIbxwT-gpK9HvsVYOxGhkMyqk

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