The New Mexico Department of Veterans Services (DVS) is reminding veterans in New Mexico that there are two options available to them for getting a free COVID-19 vaccine.

The first option is through the New Mexico VA Health Care System—which is now offering vaccines for any veteran enrolled in VA health care—regardless of their age or health-risk status.

A second option—particularly for veterans who do not receive VA health care--is through the New Mexico Department of Health (DOH), which offers the vaccine to all New Mexico residents.

***But pre-registration is required for both options***. “Walk-ins” are not allowed. No veteran or New Mexican will get a vaccine without registering in advance for a vaccine appointment.

**Registering for an NMVAHCS vaccine**

VA-enrolled veterans must register with the NMVAHCS to schedule their vaccine by calling (505) 265-1711, and then using either of the following four extensions: 3915, 3916, 2910, or 2912. The NMVAHCS will contact the registered veteran when their vaccine is ready.

For VA-enrolled 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.

VA-enrolled veterans who want their vaccine through the NMVAHCS--but live outside the Albuquerque metro are--can call the same phone number to register for a vaccine 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 those 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 eiligibility—and for online registration: <https://www.va.gov/health-care/eligibility/?fbclid=IwAR1PDKybCEaJ_fDc6J28-4NklhY2ZzaL_olIbxwT-gpK9HvsVYOxGhkMyqk>

**Registering for a DOH vaccine**

Registration can be done online at <https://cvvaccine.nmhealth.org/>

DOH vaccines are being given to New Mexicans in a phased-in approach according to specific groups of citizens. Currently, the following groups are eligible: Health care workers, first responders, educators/staff and anyone with a chronic health condition—with expansion expected soon to include the rest of the state’s population.

**Q: Which program should I register with? A: BOTH!**

DVS is urging veterans to register with both programs—and to go with the first program that contacts the veteran.

“Veterans are fortunate to have two excellent options—and double the chance to quickly get a COVID-19 vaccine,” said DVS Secretary Sonya Smith. “So please register for both. These vaccines can not only save your life, they can prevent you from also endangering the lives of your family members and friends. Do it for you—and do it for them.”

DVS also asks veterans that, upon being notified by one agency, to go online and remove your name from the other option—to free up a slot for another New Mexican.