

SAVE LIVES Act: COVID-19 Vaccination Eligibility Fact Sheet

Expanded eligibility under the SAVE LIVES Act

The expanded authority under the [SAVES LIVES Act](#) depends on readily available COVID-19 vaccine supply and requires VA to continue to prioritize for Veterans enrolled in VA care.

Prior to the SAVE LIVES Act, VA was only vaccinating Veterans receiving care at VA and their designated caregiver. **As authorized by the SAVES LIVES Act, these groups are now also eligible for a COVID-19 vaccine at VA when their local VA health facilities are able to offer more vaccines:**

All Veterans

- Anyone who served in the U.S. military, to include:
 - National Guard
 - Reserves
 - Coast Guard
- Commissioned members of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration or the U.S. Public Health Service
- Cadets or midshipmen of the U.S. military academies
- All categories of Veterans regardless of Character of Discharge
- Never activated National Guard, Reserve and Coast Guard

Spouses of Veterans

- Spouses include
 - Those in same-sex and common-law marriages
 - Widow or widower of a Veteran
 - Individuals who characterize their relationship as spousal can receive the vaccine

Caregivers of a Veteran

- Family member or friend who
 - Provides care to the Veteran
 - Helps the Veteran with personal needs like feeding, bathing, or dressing
 - May also help the Veteran with tasks like shopping or transportation

CHAMPVA Recipients

- Spouses or children of permanently and totally disabled Veterans or of Veterans who have died from service-connected disabilities.
- Recipients must be at least 18 years of age





When and how to get a COVID-19 vaccine

- At this time, we still have a limited amount of COVID-19 vaccines. We're working to determine how quickly we can begin to offer vaccines to these other groups. This may vary by facility. Some facilities may be able to offer vaccines to these groups now, while others may not.
- Here's what you need to do to get a vaccine at VA:
 1. Visit [COVID-19 vaccines at VA | Veterans Affairs](#)
 2. Learn about getting a vaccine at VA
 3. Sign up to tell us you'd like to get a vaccine at VA
- Your employer, pharmacy, health care provider's office, or local public health officials may offer you a COVID-19 vaccine. We encourage you to take the first opportunity you have to get a vaccine at the most convenient location for you.

How we'll contact you when we have a COVID-19 vaccine for you

- Different VA health facilities are at different phases of our plan. Your local facility will contact you when they have a COVID-19 vaccine for you.
- Your facility may invite you to a large vaccination event (like a drive-thru clinic). Or they may ask you to schedule a vaccine appointment. You may receive an invite by phone, email, or text message:
 - Text messages will always come from **53079**.
 - Emails will always come from a **va.gov** email address.

For your continued health and safety during the pandemic, please do not visit VA facilities for a COVID-19 vaccine without an appointment.