PHOENIX VA COVID-19 VACCINE UPDATE

Current as of Feb. 4, 2021

The Phoenix VA Health Care System is working diligently to offer and administer the COVID-19 vaccine as quickly as possible to VA employees and eligible Veterans in accordance with VHA and CDC guidance. **As of Feb. 4, we have given out more than 11,000 vaccinations.** *Appointments required for vaccinations.

1 CURRENTLY VACCINATING

We're actively reaching out to and vaccinating Veterans in VHA/CDC group C1-A, which includes Veterans **age 65 and older; along with front-line essential workers of any age; those receiving chemotherapy, hemodialysis, those with a solid organ transplant, ALS or a spinal cord injury**. If you fall into the above categories, we encourage you to reach out to your Primary Care Team directly using secure messaging. They can provide additional information and assist with scheduling. Those 65 and over may receive a text asking you to schedule via text.

(*Front-line essential workers include: first responders, education, food & agriculture, manufacturing, corrections, Postal Service, public transit and grocery store workers. If you fall into one of these categories, you MUST bring proof of employment in order to receive the vaccine.*)

2 KEEP ME INFORMED

If you do not fall into the above categories, you may indicate your interest in receiving the vaccine by signing up at https://www.va.gov/health-care/covid-19-vaccine/stay-informed. Our health care system receives this information and will reach out to interested Veterans when they are eligible. More information about VHA's vaccination strategy is available at https://www.va.gov/health-care/covid-19-vaccine. Due to high call volume, we encourage you to reach out to your Primary Care Team through Secure Messaging.

3 CAPACITY

The Phoenix VA Health Care System has the Pfizer COVID-19 vaccine. This requires two doses, 21 days apart. We are currently administering approximately **2,800 vaccines/week** at the main hospital with clinic hours Monday-Saturday. Additionally, we will be administering approximately **500 vaccinations/week** at the Staff Sergeant Alexander W. Conrad Veterans Affairs Health Care Clinic in Gilbert, Ariz., (formerly called the Southeast Community Based Outpatient Clinic). Clinic hours are Wednesday, Friday, Saturday. We continue to expand vaccination capacity.

During this phase of limited supply, we expect interest to far exceed vaccine availability. That is why we continue to follow CDC guidelines for vaccine administration to ensure those at greatest risk for severe illness are offered the vaccine as it becomes available. To learn more about CDC vaccination guidelines, please visit https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/vaccines/recommendations.html

4 ELIGIBILITY / TRAVELING VETS

Enrolled Veterans can receive the COVID-19 vaccine from VHA. Veterans who are not enrolled can do so by going to https://www.va.gov/health-care/.
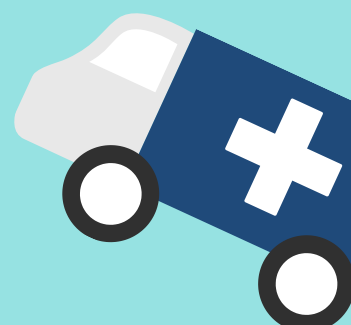
Traveling Veterans may be vaccinated at the Phoenix VA in accordance with the group being vaccinated at that time. To make the process easier, Traveling Veterans should reach out to their home VA Primary Care Team, who can help facilitate the process.

5 CAREGIVER VACCINATIONS NOT AVAILABLE

At this time, we **DO NOT** have a robust enough supply to vaccinate caregivers in VA's Program of Comprehensive Assistance for Family Caregivers (PCAFC). **Therefore, at this time, caregivers are NOT eligible to receive the COVID-19 vaccine through the Phoenix VA Health Care System.** When supply increases, we will reach out to those approved caregivers to schedule vaccinations.

6 VACCINES THRU STATE / COUNTIES

The state of Arizona and county health departments are also offering COVID-19 vaccinations. It is important to receive the first and second dose with the same entity (VA, County health department, or State venues). Based on supply, the county and state may move through groups at a pace that differs from the local VA.

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