

COVID-19 Resources for Veterans

There are several programs and relief initiatives in the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act. This guide can serve as a starting point to guide you in the right direction.

The CARES Act provides funding to ensure that the Department of Veterans' Affairs (VA) has the equipment, tests, and support services necessary to provide veterans with needed care at facilities nationwide.

The Department of Veterans' Affairs is providing this website as a resource for all veterans who have questions about the VA's response to the coronavirus: https://www.publichealth.va.gov/n-coronavirus/

What should I do if I have symptoms?

If you have a fever, coughing, and shortness of breath, call your VA medical center before going to a clinic, urgent care, or emergency room.

You can also send your doctor a secure message through My HealtheVet at: https://www.myhealth.va.gov/mhv-portal-web/user-login?redirect=/mhv-portal-web/home

Can I be tested for COVID-19?

Testing is based on many factors including the severity of symptoms, other existing illnesses or conditions, possible exposure, and other criteria. VA health facilities have been testing Veterans who meet the <u>testing criteria provided by the CDC</u>. There's no charge for testing.

What should I do if I have an upcoming VA health appointment?

For routine appointments, the VA recommends using telehealth (phone or video) for your scheduled appointment. You can also cancel and reschedule your appointment for a later date.

If you have a non-urgent elective procedure scheduled, the VA may contact you to cancel or reschedule for a later date.

How do I reschedule or cancel my upcoming VA appointment?

The VA will continue to provide the same level of education benefits to students having to take courses online due to the pandemic. For more information visit the VA at: https://www.blogs.va.gov/VAntage/72852/veterans-gi-bill-benefits-continue-covid-19-pandemic/.

Veterans who have questions regarding their home loans should contact the VA's home loan program at 877-827-3702, or visit https://www.benefits.va.gov/homeloans/.

For more information on the provisions in the CARES Act for homeowners, including veterans, you may also visit the Federal Housing Finance Agency's information page at: https://www.fhfa.gov/Homeownersbuyer/MortgageAssistance/Pages/Coronavirus-Assistance-Information.aspx.

What can I do if I feel anxious and overwhelmed?

First, it's important to know you're not alone. Concerns about COVID-19 can be stressful for many people. You can take steps to manage stress and get support. Stay connected and healthy, keep your existing mental health appointments, or ask for a new mental health appointment. Veterans, or those concerned about a veteran, may contact the Veteran's Crisis Line by calling: 1-800-273-8255 and pressing 1.

Additional Assistance

Senator Warner's office stands ready to assist with any coronavirus and non-coronavirus federal issues. **If you or a loved one is currently experiencing an issue with a federal agency,** please contact Senator Warner's office by calling: (202) 224-2023 or visiting: https://www.warner.senate.gov/.