



U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs COVID-19 Pandemic Response

Weekly Report: April 23–29, 2022



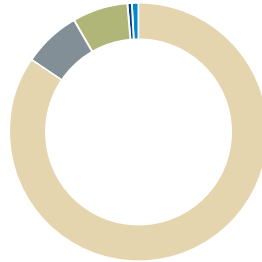
VACCINE

67.0% Veteran users vaccinated

4,763,957 people vaccinated

(at least one dose)

- 4,228,254 Veterans
- 350,559 employees
- 122,791 SAVE LIVES Act
- 30,026 other federal partners
- 25,112 other



Rurality



62.2%
rural



59.9%
highly rural



69.3%
urban

Race

65.9% White



70.7% Black or African American



76.4% Asian



61.7% American Indian or Alaskan Native



68.0% Native Hawaiian or other Pacific Islander



63.3% Multiple



VETERAN CARE

VA has diagnosed **625,926** people with COVID-19



86,139 COVID-19 patients admitted to VA facilities

424 current COVID-19 inpatients

599,137 COVID-19 patients now in convalescence



8,626,902 tests completed

VIRTUAL CARE

189,152 weekly home or off-site telehealth visits (from Apr. 17–23, 2022)



1,590.4% increase in home or off-site telehealth visits (from Mar. 1, 2020–Apr. 23, 2022)

FOURTH MISSION



FEMA

1 mission assignment

195 completed missions

All figures are as of Apr. 28, 2022, unless otherwise noted.

VA.gov had **3,076,239** visitors (last 7 days) (as of Apr. 28, 2022)



VA.gov/Coronavirus had **1,144** visitors (from Apr. 23–29, 2022)



822 calls made to VA's COVID-19 Frequently Asked Questions Hotline (from Apr. 24–30, 2022)

3,240 calls to White House VA Hotline (last 7 days) (as of Apr. 28, 2022)

GOOD NEWS STORIES



1

1) COVID-19 cases that return after antiviral treatment puzzle doctors

VA neurologist Dr. Michael Charness had a 71-year-old patient with symptoms of COVID-19. The patient started taking antiviral medication Paxlovid. By day 2, his symptoms were almost completely gone; by day 7 he was testing negative. But on day 9 the symptoms returned, and he tested positive again. "At the moment, I would say it's just a little mysterious," Charness said, "it has to be much better studied."

[Read the full story.](#)

2) Local VA patient advocates helps Veterans navigate system

If you're a Veterans not getting the care you need from VA, have you spoken to your patient advocate? It's one of the least-known positions in VA health care, but it's also one of the most valuable. "It's just pointing them towards what the veteran needs," said Martin Longoria, patient advocate at the Corpus Christi VA. His job is to fight for Veterans and their families.

[Read the full story.](#)

3) Video tablets are lowering suicides, raising treatment for rural Veterans

Over the past couple years, a computer tablet has become an indispensable ally to Air Force Veteran Andrew Labadie. From his home in rural Branch County just north of the Indiana border, Labadie can tap into a web of mental health specialists: counselors, psychologists, recreational therapists. "We've had a lot of positive feedback from Veterans," said social worker Russell Bell at the Battle Creek VA.

[Read the full story.](#)



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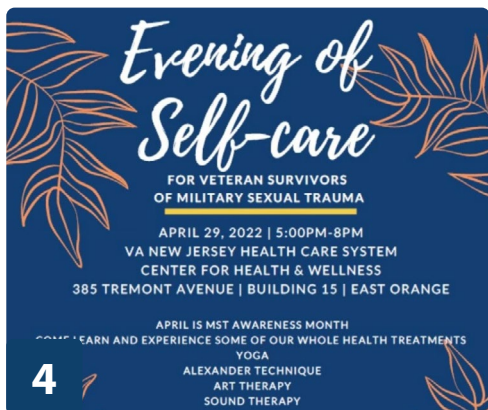


3

4) New Jersey VA event looks to encourage survivors of military sexual assault to seek help

VA is encouraging survivors of military sexual assault to seek help. April is Sexual Assault Awareness month, and the East Orange, NJ VA rounded out the month with an event called An Evening of Self-Care. "We believe you and we believe in you," says Xiomara Johnson of VA New Jersey.

[Read the full story.](#)



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VA's COVID-19 Frequently Asked Questions Hotline: 844-698-2311
 Veterans Crisis Line: 800-273-8255 & Press 1
 VA 411: 800-698-2411

Call your VA medical center ([VA.gov/find-locations](#)) before visiting. This helps us protect you, other Veterans & medical staff.

[VA.gov/Coronavirus](#)

[VA Coronavirus: FAQs page](#)

Download your VA Welcome Kit: [VA.gov/welcome-kit](#)

Sign up for weekly VA email updates at: [VA.gov/VetResources](#)



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