

When COVID-19 vaccine comes, VA will be ready

Working with federal partners to distribute and administer

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Planning is underway at VA to deliver a COVID-19 vaccine when one becomes available. VA is working with the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) to develop a phased plan based on five core ethical pillars: safety, maximizing the benefit of the vaccine, equity, fairness and transparency.

Veteran and employee safety remain our #1 priority. The plan takes into consideration a number of risk factors, including risks of acquiring infection, severe illness and death if infected, and transmitting the disease, as well as the risk to essential workers, including health care personnel.

Long Description

VA medical centers across the country performed planning exercises in late October to prepare for initial receipt of the vaccine.

Offering the vaccine first to health care personnel and Veterans

Initially, we expect supplies to be limited. Based on these risk factors, VA will offer the vaccine first to high-risk health care personnel (HCP), as they are essential in continuing to care for patients throughout the pandemic. As more vaccines become available, VA will offer the vaccine to high-risk Veterans. VA's ultimate goal is to offer it to all Veterans and employees who want to be vaccinated.

Preparing VA facilities

VA medical centers across the country performed planning exercises in late October to prepare for initial receipt of the vaccine. These exercises help sites determine how they will distribute immunizations. They based the decisions on the number of doses available and coordinated communications with Veterans to schedule their immunization.

They also addressed ordering, storage, handling, and administration of the vaccine.

Listening to Veterans

Additionally, VA has been conducting listening sessions and interviews with Veterans across the country to gauge their interest and determine the best methods for reaching out to our diverse Veteran population.

Your local medical facility will update you as vaccines become available.

Important resources

- [CDC COVID-19 Vaccine website](#)
- [VA News Release on vaccine distribution](#)