



VA mandates COVID-19 vaccines among its medical employees including VHA facilities staff

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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WASHINGTON — July 26 Department of Veterans Affairs

Secretary Denis McDonough announced he will make COVID-19 vaccines mandatory for Title 38 VA health care personnel

— including physicians, dentists, podiatrists, optometrists, registered nurses, physician assistants, expanded-function dental auxiliaries and chiropractors — who work in Veterans Health Administration facilities, visit VHA facilities or provide direct care to those VA serves.

VA is taking this necessary step to keep the Veterans it serves safe.

Each employee will have eight weeks to be fully vaccinated.

“We’re mandating vaccines for Title 38 employees because it’s the best way to keep Veterans safe, especially as the Delta variant spreads across the country,” McDonough said. “Whenever a Veteran or VA employee sets foot in a VA facility, they deserve to know that we have done everything in our power to protect them from COVID-19. With this mandate, we can once again make — and keep — that fundamental promise.”

The department’s decision is supported by numerous medical organizations including the [American Hospital Association](#), [America’s Essential Hospitals](#) and a [Multisociety group of the leading Infectious Disease Societies](#). The American Medical Association, American Nurses Association, American College of Physicians, American Academy of Pediatrics, Association of American Medical Colleges, and National Association for Home Care and Hospice also [endorsed mandating COVID-19 vaccination for health care workers](#).

In recent weeks, VA has lost four employees to COVID-19 — all of whom were unvaccinated. At least three of those employees died because of the increasingly prevalent Delta variant. There has also been an outbreak among unvaccinated employees and trainees at a VA Law

Enforcement Training Center, the third such outbreak during the pandemic.

All VA employees are eligible to be vaccinated at no personal expense at any of our [facilities](#). Employees will also receive four hours of paid administrative leave after demonstrating they have been vaccinated. Information in [these FAQs](#) or [clinician and Veteran videos](#) has details about the vaccine, its safety and effectiveness.

The safety and wellbeing of our Veterans and personnel is paramount.



Reporters and media outlets with questions or comments should contact the Office of Media Relations at vapublicaffairs@va.gov



Veterans with questions about their health care and benefits (including GI Bill). Questions, updates and documents can be submitted online.

[Contact us online through Ask VA](#)



Veterans can also use our chatbot to get information about VA benefits and services. The chatbot won't connect you with a person, but it can show you where to go on VA.gov to find answers to some common questions.

[Learn about our chatbot and ask a question](#)

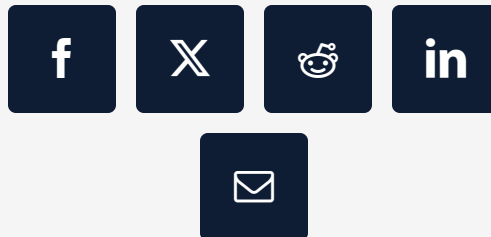


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Veterans nearly \$150 million in insurance premium payments starting in November, when VA implements the first-ever premium holiday for the Veterans' Group Life Insurance program.

Veteran homelessness

A record high of \$1.17 billion in VA grants awarded to 680 organizations across the country to help Veterans who are homeless or at risk of becoming homeless. The grants, which will be distributed in FY2027, come after VA housed 51,936 homeless Veterans in fiscal year 2025, the most in seven years.

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