Tips for Veterans after COVID-19 vaccination

As of April 8, 2021, 2.3 million Veterans have gotten at least 1 dose of a COVID-19 vaccine through VA. We thank each of these Veterans for taking this important step to protect themselves, their families, and their communities.

What to do after you're fully vaccinated

After you're fully vaccinated, follow these tips to stay safe and informed:

Keep your vaccination record card as proof of vaccination. But don't share a photo of your card on social media. The card contains personal information, like your birthdate. Scammers can use this information to try to steal your identity. The Federal Communications Commission (FCC) offers more advice on how to avoid COVID-19 scams.
Get FCC advice on how to avoid COVID-19 scams

Continue to follow health safety guidance. Even after you're fully vaccinated, you'll still need to wear a mask that covers your mouth and nose when you're in public. You'll also need to follow other safety rules like practicing physical distancing. This helps protect others who haven't yet received a vaccine. But you may be able to start doing some things that you stopped doing because of the pandemic. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) offer guidelines to help you understand what's safe and what's not.
Get CDC advice on what to do when you've been fully vaccinated

Stay connected to VA for any updates. If we have more information to share in the future, we'll send you updates by email. You can also go to our main VA COVID-19 vaccine page anytime for the latest updates.
Get the latest VA COVID-19 vaccine updates

If you got your vaccine outside of VA, here are 2 additional steps you can take:

Tell your VA health care team so they can enter this information into your VA medical record. You can send a picture of your vaccination record card to your VA provider through secure messaging.
Send a secure message to your VA provider

Add your vaccine information to your My HealtheVet health summary for your own records. To add your information, you'll need a Premium My HealtheVet account.
Learn more about managing your COVID-19 vaccine records online

Update on the Janssen (Johnson & Johnson) COVID-19 vaccine:

We're following Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) guidance to pause in providing the Janssen vaccine at this time. This pause is due to a concern about possible rare side effects. Your safety is our top priority. For more information, go to the CDC website.
Read the CDC and FDA statement on the Janssen COVID-19 vaccine
If you received this vaccine and have any questions, contact your health care provider.
Send a secure message to your VA provider

Your spouse or caregiver may now be eligible for a COVID-19 vaccine

We also want to let you know that these groups are now eligible for a COVID-19 vaccine at VA when their local VA health facilities are able to offer more vaccines:

All Veterans. For COVID-19 vaccine eligibility, we define a Veteran as anyone who served in the U.S. military, including the National Guard, Reserves, or Coast Guard.

Spouses and surviving spouses of Veterans

Caregivers of Veterans. For COVID-19 vaccine eligibility, we define a caregiver as a family member or friend who provides care to a Veteran. Caregivers may help a Veteran with personal needs like feeding, bathing, or dressing. They may also help a Veteran with tasks like shopping or transportation.

Recipients of Civilian Health and Medical Program of the Department of Veterans Affairs (CHAMPVA) benefits

Spouses, caregivers, CHAMPVA recipients, and non-enrolled Veterans can sign up to tell us they'd like to get a COVID-19 vaccine at VA