

From: VA VSO LIAISON
Sent: Monday, May 4, 2020 7:17 AM
Subject: COVID-19 Awareness Update

VA today announced participation in a series of clinical trials and investigations across the nation aimed at finding ways to mitigate or potentially prevent symptoms of the coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19) in patients. The trials demonstrate the ability of VA — America’s largest integrated health care network that also maintains a significant capacity for research — to work with government and industry partners on a wide range of solutions during this national health. The release on VA participating in drug, plasma trials in fight against COVID-19 can be found at this link: <https://www.va.gov/opa/pressrel/pressrelease.cfm?id=5438>

VA Board of Veterans’ Appeals (Board) today announced it is expanding access to virtual hearings to all Veterans awaiting their Board hearing after successfully testing the capabilities during the [last year](#). Virtual hearings are a secure, confidential and convenient option for Veterans and their representatives to have their Board hearing held from a location of their choosing. The Board moved quickly to put this option into place in response to COVID-19 and the temporary suspension of in-person hearings. For Veterans who opted to have a hearing, choosing the virtual hearing will allow the Board to decide a Veteran’s appeal more quickly. The release on VA expands access to virtual hearings can be found at this link: <https://www.va.gov/opa/pressrel/pressrelease.cfm?id=5436>

VA today announced it is helping 38 states and territories with their response to the coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19), providing care, services and supplies to hundreds of non-Veterans in this time of uncertainty. In coordination with the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA), VA has deployed doctors, nurses and nursing aides to state-run nursing homes in several states where COVID-19 has emerged among vulnerable populations. The release on VA is protecting and serving all of America can be found at this link: <https://www.va.gov/opa/pressrel/pressrelease.cfm?id=5439>

For Daily COVID updates on confirmed patients can be found at this link: <https://www.accesstocare.va.gov/Healthcare/COVID19NationalSummary>. This link includes both Veteran and non-veteran data. Approximately twenty-seven percent of Veterans who are positive for COVID-19 are quarantined at home and sixty-four percent are convalescing. (14 days or more from their last positive test result).

For VA’s [news releases](#)

For Veterans: [Coronavirus FAQs page](#)

Further information: [VA's public health response](#).