VA Manila Outpatient Clinic Updates - September 2021

Inbox

**MANILA VA OUTPATIENT CLINIC**

**ANNOUNCEMENTS AND REMINDERS**

September 8, 2021

**UPDATES ON VA MANILA OPERATIONS – SEPTEMBER**

Some Veterans who received a vaccine from VA Manila have shared that the CDC Vaccine Card they were issued at the Clinic is not being accepted by local authorities as evidence that they received a COVID-19 vaccine. Veterans and spouses who received a vaccine at VA Manila should be advised that the Philippine Department of Health considers those vaccinated at VA Manila as having been ‘vaccinated outside of the Philippines’.

VA and the US Embassy have shared the process that you may wish to go through to register your vaccine with the Philippines Bureau of Quarantine (BOQ) and receive an International Certification of Vaccinations (ICV) – also referred to as a “yellow card”. Veterans having difficulties with only their US CDC Vaccine card may find these ICVs more widely accepted. As more and more Philippine citizens return from overseas having been vaccinated, I suspect a more formalized verification system will be implemented within the Philippines for those vaccinated from non-Philippine sources to register their vaccine. We will continue to keep Veterans apprised of new developments on this front and realize how important having valid and readily accepted proof of your vaccine will be in the coming weeks and months.

All three US FDA approved vaccines are safe and effective against COVID-19 virus, and are considered highly effective against severe illness, hospitalization, and death from the Coronavirus. While some vaccines report higher levels of protection, the three vaccines have not been studied head-to-head against one another, so it is not possible to make a comparison between the Pfizer, Moderna, and Johnson and Johnson vaccines. We strongly recommend all Veterans receive a COVID-19 vaccine as soon as possible.