



VETERANS OF FOREIGN WARS

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2021 Increases for Military Retiree and VA Disability Pay

As the notorious 2020 approaches its end, it is safe to say that there were more downs than ups for most of the United States. As we continue to push through the COVID-19 pandemic, 2021 is often viewed for many as a fresh start for the nation. However, military retirees who receive some disability or other benefit from the Department of Veteran Affairs will have a very pleasant surprise greeting them in the upcoming year. They will see a 1.3% increase in their monthly checks starting in 2021.

RELATED: VA Disability Pay Charts <https://www.va.gov/disability/compensation-rates/veteran-rates/>

The pay increase comes from the Cost of Living Allowance (COLA), which is usually increased every year based on the rate of inflation, along with military retirement pay, Survivor Benefit Plan Annuities, VA Compensation, and Pensions, and finally, Social Security benefits. The increase for 2021 is slightly less than the 1.6% increase from last year but continues to stay in line with the historical increases seen over the previous ten years.

<https://www.mymilitarybenefits.com/benefits/2021-retiree-va-disability-pay-increase/>



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VA announces initial plans for COVID-19 vaccine distribution

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE Dec. 10, 2020

WASHINGTON – The U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) today announced a preliminary plan for distributing COVID-19 vaccinations it will implement once the Food and Drug Administration issues an emergency use authorization for a vaccine.

VA has worked in close coordination with the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and Operation Warp Speed to plan for COVID-19 vaccination of VA staff and Veterans.

VA will first provide vaccinations to front-line VA health care workers and Veterans residing in long-term care units in 37 of its medical centers across the country.

The centers, listed below, were chosen for their ability to vaccinate large numbers of people and store the vaccines at extremely cold temperatures.

Health care workers will be among the first to receive vaccinations because they are at high risk for contracting and spreading COVID-19 to other staff members and patients, and their health is critical to ensuring the continued care of Veterans.

Veterans in VA's long-term care facilities will be the first patient group to be vaccinated. As vaccine supplies increase, additional Veterans will receive vaccinations based on factors such as age, existing health problems and other considerations that increase the risk of severe illness or death from COVID-19.

VA anticipates a limited vaccine supply immediately after FDA's approval, but expects more supplies to be available in short order.

"VA is well prepared and positioned to begin COVID-19 vaccinations," said VA Secretary Robert Wilkie. "Our ultimate goal is to offer it to all Veterans and employees who want to be vaccinated."

The 37 VA sites chosen for initial distribution of the vaccine will closely monitor patients and staff for side effects and log this information in its vaccine monitoring and tracking system. This is the same system VA uses to monitor reactions to all vaccines, including those for the flu and shingles.

VA will report directly to the CDC data on all vaccine doses administered by VA. The department will also provide general, public updates on the number of people who receive the vaccination at these sites, similar to how VA posts COVID-19 testing figures.

The 37 VA sites are spread throughout the country and include:

Birmingham (AL) VA Health Care System
Phoenix (AZ) VA Health Care System
Greater Los Angeles (CA) VA Health Care System
Palo Alto (CA) VA Health Care System
Eastern Colorado (CO) VA Health Care System
Connecticut (West Haven Campus) VA Health Care System
Washington DC VA Health Care System
Orlando (FL) VA Health Care System
Augusta (GA) VA Health Care System
Edward J. Hines Jr. VA Hospital (IL)
Lexington (KY) VA Health Care System
Southeast Louisiana (New Orleans) VA Health Care System
Maryland (Baltimore) VA Health Care System
Bedford (MA) VA Health Care System
Ann Arbor (MI) VA Health Care System
Minneapolis (MN) VA Health Care System
Harry S Truman Memorial Veterans Hospital (Columbia MO)
St. Louis (MO) VA Health Care System
Omaha (NE) VA Health Care System
Southern Nevada (North Las Vegas) VA Health Care System
Raymond G. Murphy (NM) VA Health Care System
New York Harbor (Brooklyn) VA Health Care System
Western New York (Buffalo) VA Health Care System
Durham (NC) VA Health Care System
Cleveland (OH) VA Health Care System
Oklahoma City (OK) VA Health Care System
Portland (OR) VA Health Care System
Corporal Michael J. Crescenz VA Medical Center (Philadelphia PA)
Pittsburgh (PA) VA Health Care System
Caribbean (Puerto Rico) VA Health Care System
Memphis (TN) VA Health Care System
Dallas (TX) VA Medical Center
Michael E. DeBakey VA Health Care System (Houston TX)
Audie L. Murphy VA Hospital (San Antonio TX)
Richmond (VA) VA Health Care System
Puget Sound (WA) VA Health Care System
Milwaukee (WI) VA Health Care System

Veterans seeking additional information should visit the [VA COVID-19 vaccine webpage](#), contact their care team or visit their facility website.



December						
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1	2	3	4	5
6	7 VPR—Pearl Harbor Day	8	9	10	11	12 District 20 Mtg
13	14 VFW Meeting	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25 Christmas	26
27	28	29	30	31		
Phases of the Moon: 7:☾ 14:☾ 21:☾ 29:☾						
Holidays and Observances: 24: Christmas Eve, 25: Christmas Day, 31: New Year's Eve						

January 2021

February 2021						
Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa
31	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	1	2	3	4	5	6

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
27	28	29	30	31	1 New Year's Day	2
3	4	5	6 Epiphany	7	8	9
10	11 VFW Meeting	12	13	14	15	16
17	18 Birthday of Martin Luther King, Jr.	19	20	21	22	23
24 VFW TX Mid-Winter	25	26	27 VPR - Vietnam Peace Accord	28	29	30
31	1	2	3	4	5	6