



VETERANS OF FOREIGN WARS
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Veterans Today

The military men and women who serve and protect the U.S. come from all walks of life; they are parents, children, grandparents, friends, neighbors and coworkers, and are an important part of their communities. Here are some facts about the veteran population of the United States:

- 18.2 million living veterans served during at least one war as of 2018.
- 9 percent of veterans are women.
- 7 million veterans served during the Vietnam War.
- 3 million veterans have served in support of the War on Terrorism.
- Of the 16 million Americans who served during World War II, about 496,777 were still alive as of 2018.
- Connecticut was home to the highest percentage of World War II veterans as of 2018 at 7.1 percent.
- 2 million veterans served during the Korean War.
- As of 2017, the top three states with the highest percentage of Veterans were Alaska, Maine and Montana, respectively.

Citation: <https://www.history.com/topics/holidays/veterans-day-facts>

2020 Veterans Day Free Meals and Restaurant Deals and Discounts

<https://www.military.com/veterans-day/restaurants-veterans-day-military-discounts.html>
<https://www.blogs.va.gov/VAntage/80347/veterans-day-2020-discounts/>



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VA launches new electronic health record system, reaching milestone in Veteran care

In a landmark event for Veteran health care, VA began using its new electronic health record (EHR) system at select facilities in the Pacific Northwest and Las Vegas on Oct. 24.

This modern EHR will help improve the health care experience for Veterans by connecting VA medical centers and clinics with the Department of Defense (DOD), the U.S. Coast Guard and community care providers. It will allow clinicians to easily access a Veteran's full medical history in one location, without needing to track down information such as pharmacy or lab records.

"This is great news for our nation's Veterans, who deserve the best health care in the world," said John H. Windom, executive director of VA's Office of Electronic Health Record Modernization, which leads the nationwide EHR deployment effort. "This technology will help VA improve health outcomes and access to care for our Veterans."

First locations

Mann-Grandstaff VA Medical Center in Spokane, Washington, and its associated clinics in Wenatchee, Washington; Libby, Montana; and Coeur d'Alene and Sandpoint, Idaho, are the first VA medical facilities using the new EHR system. Together, these locations serve more than 24,000 Veterans. The other deployment site, the West Consolidated Patient Account Center in Las Vegas, is an administrative facility that supports Mann-Grandstaff and other VA facilities in the Pacific Northwest.

VA clinicians and administrative staff at these sites can now more easily access patient information directly within the EHR itself, rather than using multiple systems as they had before. This includes patient medications, allergies, immunizations, past medical procedures and ongoing health concerns, as well as contact information, such as addresses, phone numbers and emails.

With this information more accessible, VA care providers will be able to view patient medical histories that will support clinical decision-making and improve Veteran health results. This more complete view of a patient's records will also allow clinicians to make better connections between Veterans' time on active duty and potential medical issues they might experience later in life.

"Once it is fully implemented, VA's new EHR will transform the country's largest integrated health care system and benefit over 23.9 million Veterans, as well as their families and caregivers," Windom said. "No other health care organization in the world is attempting something of this scale and complexity, and we are committed to getting this absolutely right for our Veterans."

Next locations

VA will deploy the new system at facilities across the country over a 10-year period, scheduled to end in 2028. After the implementation at Mann-Grandstaff, VA plans to roll out the EHR at sites in Alaska, Idaho, Ohio, Oregon and Washington state.

For more information about VA's EHRM program, visit <https://vaww.ehrm.va.gov>.

Retirees Must Start Paying for Tricare Select Now or Lose Coverage in January

Most retirees enrolled in Tricare Select will soon be required to pay a new monthly premium or lose their health insurance coverage.

A little noticed provision in the 2017 National Defense Authorization Act is going into effect next year. It authorized the new fees, which will impact only retirees, their family members and survivors on Tricare Select.

You are not affected if you use other Tricare programs such as Tricare For Life, Tricare Prime, Tricare Reserve Select, Tricare Retired Reserve or Tricare Young Adult.

The following groups DO NOT have to pay the fee:

- Retirees who received a medical discharge as well as their families
- Survivors
- Active-duty members and their family members.

Beginning Jan. 1, 2021, anyone who is enrolled in the Tricare Select program and is a recipient of retired pay must pay a monthly enrollment fee or their health insurance will be canceled. This payment deadline is unrelated to Tricare Open Season, which lets members change their Tricare coverage or enroll in a new program. However, some Tricare regional contractors will not let members begin their allotments until open season, which begins Nov. 9.

Related: Tricare Open Enrollment Lets You Change Health Insurance Programs

Tricare requires most retirees to pay the enrollment fee via allotment. Surviving spouses and recipients of Survivor Benefit Plan payments will have to pay the fee via recurring payments from their debit or credit cards or Electronic Funds Transfer from their bank.

The last day retirees can start an allotment to ensure the payment is made on time is Nov. 20. If you don't start an allotment by that date, you will have to make special arrangements with Tricare for payment of the fees.

If you don't pay the fees before Jan. 1, 2021, your coverage will end and you will have 180 days from your last paid-through date to request reinstatement of coverage.

If you don't start the allotment on time, you may also have to pay for one or more months coverage upfront while waiting for the allotment to process.

Depending on your Tricare contractor, you can set up your monthly payment by online self-service, phone or mail.

These fees are new to retirees who are considered "Group A" beneficiaries by Tricare.

Tricare Groups

Two years ago, Tricare instituted two different groups of beneficiaries, Group A and Group B. Group A includes those who entered the service before Jan. 1, 2018; Group B is for those who entered after that date.

Previously, only Group B members had to pay an enrollment fee for Tricare Select.

How Much Is The Tricare Select Enrollment Fee?

For Group A, the new enrollment fee is \$150 annually for an individual and \$300 for a family. This equals \$12.50 monthly for individual coverage and \$25 monthly for family coverage.

For family members of veterans/retirees in Group B, there is a \$471 individual or \$942 family enrollment fee each year.

Contact your Tricare Regional Contractor to set up an allotment or to get more details .

<https://www.military.com/daily-news/2020/10/19/retirees-start-paying-tricare-select-now-or-lose-coverage-january.html>



November

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1 Daylight Savings Time Ends	2	3 Election Day	4	5	6	7
8	9 VFW Meeting	10 Marine Corps B'Day	11 VPR- Veterans Day	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26 Thanksgiving	27	28
29	30					

Phases of the Moon: 8: 15: 21: 30:

Holidays and Observances: 3: Election Day, 11: Veterans Day, 26: Thanksgiving Day, 27: Black Friday

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