



VETERANS OF FOREIGN WARS  
**NO ONE DOES MORE FOR VETERANS.®**

1 April 2021  
Volume 2, Issue 4

## VFW Post 8555 Newsletter/ Calendar

### VETERANS SERVICE OFFICE (VSO) / WILSON COUNTY

Assist veterans and their dependents with completing the forms/applications & collecting the appropriate documentation to support a claim for federal benefits through the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (VA). If VA denies benefits, staff will assist clients compose the necessary statements and forms in filing an appeal. Provides comprehensive knowledge of federal & state laws & regulations applying to veterans & their dependents in obtaining all benefits to which they are entitled by law. Provides advisory service on benefits involved by reviewing a veteran's or surviving family member's situation; acts as an advocate of the veteran or his family in dealing with agencies, organizations & institutions; consults with Texas Veterans Commission, VA Medical & Regional Office Personnel in development of medical treatment claims. Interviews veterans & their dependents on obtaining benefits, rights & entitlements. Develops plans for conduction briefings, filing claims, correction and upgrading of

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FLORESVILLE TX 78114  
(beside the Courthouse)

Phone: 830-393-7376  
\*Please call for an appointment

#### Office Hours

Monday through Friday, 8:00 AM - Noon and 1:00 PM - 5:00 PM  
Last appointment 3:45 PM  
(Closed for all Wilson County Holidays)



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<https://www.facebook.com/Veterans-of-Foreign-Wars-Post-8555-179838536027305/>

<https://www.vfw.org/>



# About Variants of the Virus that Causes COVID-19

Information about the characteristics of these variants is rapidly emerging. Scientists are working to learn more about how easily they spread, whether they could cause more severe illness, and whether currently authorized vaccines will protect people against them. During his remarks, the Governor discussed the incredible advancements that Texas has made that allow the state to open fully and lift the mask mandate—noting the rapid increase of vaccines. Nearly 5.7 million vaccine shots have been administered to Texans, and the state is now administering almost one million shots each week. By next Wednesday, about 7 million shots will have been administered in Texas and over half of seniors in Texas will have received a vaccine shot. By the end of March, every senior who wants a vaccine should be able to get one. The vaccine supply continues to increase so rapidly that more and more Texans will soon be eligible to receive a vaccine.

## What we know

Viruses constantly change through mutation, and new variants of a virus are expected to occur over time. Sometimes new variants emerge and disappear. Other times, new variants emerge and persist. Multiple variants of the virus that causes COVID-19 have been documented in the United States and globally during this pandemic.

The virus that causes COVID-19 is a type of coronavirus, a large family of viruses. Coronaviruses are named for the crown-like spikes on their surfaces. Scientists monitor changes in the virus, including changes to the spikes on the surface of the virus. These studies, including genetic analyses of the virus, are helping scientists understand how changes to the virus might affect how it spreads and what happens to people who are infected with it.

Multiple variants of the virus that causes COVID-19 are circulating globally and within the United States. In collaboration with a SARS-CoV-2 Interagency Group (SIG), CDC established 3 classifications for the SARS-CoV-2 variants being monitored: Variant of Interest (VOI), Variant of Concern (VOC), and Variant of High Consequence (VOHC).

There are currently five VOCs in the United States:

**B.1.1.7:** This variant was first identified in the US in December 2020. It was initially detected in the UK.

**B.1.351:** This variant was first identified in the US at the end of January 2021. It was initially detected in South Africa in December 2020.

**P.1:** This variant was first detected in the US in January 2021. P.1 was initially identified in travelers from Brazil, who were tested during routine screening at an airport in Japan, in early January.

**B.1.427 and B.1.429:** These two variants were first identified in California in February 2021 and were classified as VOCs in March 2021.

These variants seem to spread more easily and quickly than other variants, which may lead to more cases of COVID-19. An increase in the number of cases will put more strain on health care resources, lead to more hospitalizations, and potentially more deaths.

So far, studies suggest that antibodies generated through vaccination with currently authorized vaccines recognize these variants. This is being closely investigated and more studies are underway.

Rigorous and increased compliance with public health mitigation strategies, such as vaccination, physical distancing, use of masks, hand hygiene, and isolation and quarantine, is essential to limit the spread of the virus that causes COVID-19 and protect public health.



## Statement by VA Secretary McDonough on the president's FY 2022 Discretionary funding request

April 9, 2021, 11:30:00 AM

**WASHINGTON** — The Biden-Harris administration today submitted to Congress the president's priorities for fiscal year 2022 discretionary spending.

The funding request invests in the core foundations of our country's strength and advances key U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) priorities, including addressing Veteran homelessness, suicide prevention, caregiver support, and modernizing information technology systems to enhance customer service experience and ensure Veterans receive world-class health care.

The discretionary request ensures that all our Veterans, including women Veterans, Veterans of color, and LGBTQ+ Veterans, receive the care they have earned and enable them to create civilian lives of meaning and opportunity.

The president's 2022 discretionary request includes \$113.1 billion in discretionary funding for VA, a \$8.5 billion or 8.2% increase from the FY 2021 enacted level. This funding is in addition to the substantial resources provided in the American Rescue Plan. The president's FY 2022 discretionary request:

**Protects those who protected us.** The discretionary request includes \$97.5 billion for VA medical care, \$7.6 billion (an increase of 8.5%) above the 2021 enacted level. These funds, which are in addition to the more than \$15 billion designated for Veterans' medical care in the American Rescue Plan, will continue to improve access to VA healthcare, including increases in funding for women's health, mental health, suicide prevention and Veterans' homeless programs. The discretionary request includes \$2.1 billion for Veterans' homelessness programs, an increase of 4.4% over the 2021 enacted level, excluding supplemental funding, to further the administration's goal of achieving a systematic end to Veteran homelessness. The funding will also further support the department's efforts to address substance use disorders and expand services related to military sexual trauma.

- **Prioritizes Veteran suicide prevention outreach.** The discretionary request includes \$542 million, nearly \$230 million above the 2021 enacted level, for existing programs dedicated to Veteran suicide prevention outreach, including funding to increase the capacity of the Veterans Crisis Line.
- **Invests in research critical to Veterans' health needs.** The discretionary request includes \$882 million, the largest year-over-year increase in recent history, for medical and prosthetic research. This historic investment will advance the department's understanding of the impact of traumatic brain injury and toxic exposure on long-term health outcomes as part of its continuing prioritization of research focused on the needs of disabled Veterans.
- **Advances VA's electronic health record program.** The discretionary request includes \$2.7 billion to continue modernizing VA's Electronic Health Record (EHR) to ensure Veterans receive world-class health care well into the future.
- **Modernizes VA information technology.** The discretionary request includes \$4.8 billion in total resources for VA's Office of Information and Technology to support Veteran-focused technology development and cloud modernization, deliver efficient IT services, and enhance customer service experience.

These discretionary investments reflect only one element of the president's broader agenda. In the coming months, the administration will release a budget that will further detail this discretionary funding request and provide a comprehensive fiscal vision for the nation that reinvests in America, supports future growth and prosperity, meets U.S. commitments, and does so in a fiscally sustainable way.

# April 2021

May 2021						
Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa
25	26	27	28	29	30	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	29
30	31	1	2	3	4	5

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
28	29	30	31	1 April Fool's Day Maundy Thursday	2 Good Friday	3
4 Easter	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12 VFW Meeting	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22 Earth Day	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	1 © Calendar 12.com

# May 2021

June 2021						
Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa
30	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	29	30	1	2	3

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
25	26	27	28	29	30	1 VPR - Loyalty Day
2	3	4	5 Cinco de Mayo	6	7	8 VPR - VE Day
9 Mother's Day	10 VFW Meeting	11	12	13 Ascension of Jesus	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23 Pentecost	24	25 VPR-Memorial Day	26	27	28	29
30	31 Memorial Day	1	2	3	4	5 © Calendar 12.com