

SAVE LIVES Act: High-Level Messages

External High-Level Messages (as of 04/01/21)

General SAVE LIVES Qualifications

- The expanded authority under the SAVES LIVES Act depends on readily available COVID-19 vaccine supply and requires VA to continue to prioritize for Veterans enrolled in VA care.
- These groups are eligible for a COVID-19 vaccine at VA when their local VA facilities are able to offer more vaccines:
 - Veterans
 - Spouses of a Veteran
 - Caregivers of a Veteran
 - Recipients of Civilian Health and Medical Program of the Department of Veterans Affairs (CHAMPVA) benefits

Eligible Veterans

- Anyone who served in the U.S. military is eligible to be vaccinated through VA.

Eligible Spouse

- For COVID-19 vaccine eligibility, we define a spouse to include marriage, same-sex and common-law marriages. This includes a widow or widower of a Veteran. If you characterize your relationship as spousal, you can receive the vaccine.

Eligible Caregivers

- For COVID-19 vaccine eligibility, we define a caregiver as a family member or friend who provides care to the Veteran. Caregivers may help the Veteran with personal needs like feeding, bathing, or dressing. They may also help the Veteran with tasks like shopping or transportation.

When and How to Get a Vaccine

- At this time, we still have a limited amount of vaccines. We're working to determine how quickly we can begin to offer vaccines to these other groups. This may vary by facility. Some facilities may be able to offer vaccines to these groups now, while others may not.
- The best way to stay informed is to [sign up to tell us you'd like a COVID-19 vaccine through VA: \(www.va.gov/covid-19-vaccine\)](https://www.va.gov/covid-19-vaccine). Your local VA facility will then contact you when they have a vaccine for you. They may invite you to a large vaccination

event (like a drive-thru clinic). Or they may ask you to schedule a vaccine appointment. You may receive an invite by phone, email, or text message.

- For your continued health and safety during the pandemic, please **do not** visit the VA facilities for a COVID-19 vaccine without an appointment.
- Your employer, pharmacy, health care provider's office, or local public health officials may offer you a COVID-19 vaccine. We encourage you to take the first opportunity you have to get a vaccine at the most convenient location for you.