

# VETERANS UPDATE

VOLUME 4, ISSUE 8      SEPTEMBER, 2018

## VA SUICIDE PREVENTION — ‘BE THERE’



**V**A marked Suicide Prevention Month in September by launching its Be There campaign.

The campaign encourages community leaders, colleagues, family and friends to “Be There” by shar-

ing messages of support

“A common misconception is that you need special training to talk safely about suicide risk or show concern for someone who is in distress,” said VA Secretary Rob-

## UPCOMING EVENTS

**Oct. 3, 12 - 1 p.m., Hispanic Diversity Program**, Classroom 3, 5th floor, main hospital building, 830 Chalkstone Ave. Celebrate Hispanic Heritage!

**Oct. 11, 10 a.m. - 2 p.m., Gloria Gemma Hope Bus**, Providence VAMC, 830 Chalkstone Ave. Breast health information and resources.

**Nov. 17, 10 a.m. - 2 p.m., Veterans Expo at BCC**, Bristol Community College, 777 Elsbree St., Fall River, Mass.

ert Wilkie. “One simple act of kindness could help save a life.”

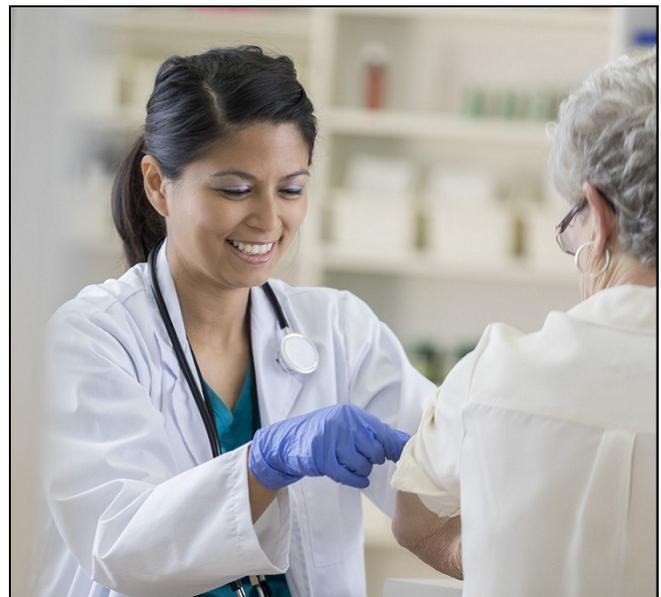
For more information on how you can “Be There” for the Veterans in your life, visit the [BeThere-ForVeterans.com](http://BeThere-ForVeterans.com) webpage.

## MAKE SURE FLU ENDS WITH “U”

**F**lu shots are FREE to enrolled Veterans and available during appointments or by request at PVAMC Center Primary Care and specialty clinics through May 31, 2019, excluding holidays.

Walk-in flu clinics are scheduled starting Oct. 1 at:

- Providence VAMC Front Entrance Lobby, Monday - Friday, 8:30 a.m. - noon, through Nov. 21
- Middletown VA Clinic: Wednesdays, 9 - 11 a.m. & 1 - 3 p.m., through May 31, 2019
- New Bedford VA Clinic: Tuesdays, 8 a.m. to 3 p.m., through Nov. 20
- Hyannis VA Clinic: Weekdays, 1 - 3 p.m., through Dec. 31
- Eagle Square Eye Clinic: Thursdays, 9 - 11:30 a.m., through Nov. 15
- Walgreens: Present your VA ID card with another photo ID for a free flu shot



## PROVIDENCE VAMC AT STAND DOWN WEEKEND



Army Veteran Anthony Berard receives a flu vaccination from Fern Maratta, a nursing resident with the Providence VA Medical Center's Post Baccalaureate Nurse Resident program, Friday, Sept. 14, during Operation Stand Down Rhode Island's Stand Down Weekend at Diamond Hill Park in Cumberland, R.I. (Providence VA Medical Center photo by Winfield Danielson)

The Providence VA Medical Center participated in the Stand Down Weekend event Sept. 14 and 15 in Diamond Hill State Park, Cumberland, R.I.

More than 450 Veterans attended the event, organized and hosted by Operation Stand Down Rhode Island, which provided Veterans with access to services provided by OSDRI, the Providence VAMC, Providence VBA Regional Office, the Rhode Island Office of Veterans Affairs and other federal, state and community partners.

Services included medical and mental health care, financial assistance, housing, legal, motor vehicle, employment and training. More than 50 nonprofit, state and federal agencies participated in the event.

"Our sincere thanks to Operation Stand Down Rhode Island for organizing and hosting Stand Down Weekend every year," said Dr. Susan MacKenzie, director of the Providence VA Medi-

cal Center. "The weekend has grown tremendously in terms of the services provided to Veterans, and our participation plays an important role in our delivery of health care to Veterans in need."

The Providence VAMC's Homeless Patient-Aligned Care Team assessed and provided services to twelve homeless Veterans during the event. The HPACT was also the lead medical provider, with the Rhode Island Chapter of the Red Cross providing first responders, as well, and Professional Ambulance providing transport. PVAMC staff provided triage and medical care to Veterans, their families and some OSDRI staff during the event, transporting a few Veterans to the Emergency Department for urgent medical concerns.

The HPACT team also provided vaccines to Veterans and their families, including 187 flu shots, 28 pneumonia vaccines and 3 TDAP vaccinations, which is a combination of vaccines protecting against tetanus, diphtheria and pertussis.



### Providence VA Medical Center

830 Chalkstone Ave  
Providence, RI 02908  
401-273-7100

Veteran's Crisis Line:  
800-273-8255 press 1

Patient Call Center (PCC):  
401-457-3336

Pharmacy Call Center:  
866-400-1241

Community Care /  
Veteran's Choice Office  
401-273-7100 ext. 3015

Account Balances:  
401-457-3344

Providence VBA Regional Office  
401-273-7100 ext. 3107

Website:  
[www.providence.va.gov](http://www.providence.va.gov)

Facebook:  
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Twitter:  
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