



U.S. Department  
of Veterans Affairs

## News Release

VA Providence Healthcare System  
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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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### **VA Providence HCS Helps VA Reach Vaccinating its 1 Millionth Veteran**

PROVIDENCE, R.I. – Today, the Department of Veterans Affairs' Veterans Health Administration vaccinated its 1 millionth Veteran with their first dose of COVID-19 vaccine.

The VA Providence Healthcare System has administered more than 3,500 first doses of vaccine to Veterans and 600 second doses. VA began COVID-19 immunizations in December 2020. As of Feb. 17, VA has vaccinated 329,685 Veterans with a second dose, which completes the course of vaccination.

VA's COVID-19 National Summary publishes vaccination data daily on Veterans at <https://www.accesstocare.va.gov/Healthcare/COVID19NationalSummary>, including information on employee and federal partner vaccinations. For those reviewing the site, "completed" means they have received both vaccine doses.

VA follows Centers for Disease Control and Prevention guidance and the VA COVID-19 Vaccination Distribution Plan, which is available at <https://www.publichealth.va.gov/docs/n-coronavirus/VHA-COVID-Vaccine-Plan-14Dec2020.pdf>. VA facilities are now offering vaccines to Veterans in CDC Phase 1b, which includes Veterans aged 75 and older. However, some sites are offering vaccine to additional Veterans as supply permits.

"VA guidance encourages local flexibility in order to maximize COVID-19 vaccine access and efficiency and limit potential vaccine waste," said Acting VA Under Secretary for Health Dr. Richard Stone. "In this limited supply phase, our COVID-19 vaccination strategy is balancing site-specific resources, facility needs, vaccine availability, and status of the pandemic locally, as well as strict storage, handling and transportation parameters of available vaccines."

Lawrence Connell, director of the VA Providence HCS said, "We're encouraged by the number of our Veterans we have been able to vaccinate so far and look forward to meeting VA's goal of offering vaccines to all eligible Veterans and employees who want to be vaccinated."

The VA Providence HCS is reaching out to its patients directly to schedule vaccinations. Veterans who would like additional information can visit the VA COVID-19 vaccines webpage at <https://www.va.gov/health-care/covid-19-vaccine/> or visit the VA Providence HCS website at <https://www.providence.va.gov>.

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