



U.S. Department
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News Release

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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VA Providence Begins COVID-19 Vaccinations for Patients

PROVIDENCE, R.I. – The VA Providence Healthcare System began COVID-19 vaccinations for Veteran patients today at the Providence VA Medical Center.

“The VA Providence Healthcare System is very excited to begin offering the Moderna COVID-19 vaccine to our Veterans,” said Lawrence Connell, director of the VA Providence HCS. “As vaccine supplies increase, our ultimate goal is to offer free COVID-19 vaccinations to all Veterans and employees who want to be vaccinated.”

VA Providence has a dedicated team that is actively contacting patients at high risk of severe illness from COVID-19 to schedule their vaccination appointments. There is no need for Veterans to preregister, call for an appointment or come to a facility to sign up.

The Moderna COVID-19 vaccine was 94 percent effective in clinical trials in preventing COVID-19 disease. The vaccine is administered in two doses, 28 days apart. The side effects appear to be similar to those of other vaccines and are short-lived.

Even after receiving COVID-19 vaccination, employees and Veterans should continue wearing face coverings, practicing physical distancing and washing hands often.

Veterans can get up-to-date information and sign up to receive regular updates on the vaccine on VA’s COVID-19 vaccine webpage at <https://www.va.gov/health-care/covid-19-vaccine/>.

- more -

VA Providence COVID-19 Patient Vaccinations – 2 of 2



John Kirby receives the first COVID-19 vaccination for a Veteran patient in the VA Providence Healthcare System who is not also an employee, from Deirdre Conlon, a registered nurse in the Dialysis Unit at the Providence VA Medical Center, Jan. 6, 2021 (VA Providence HCS photo by Kimberly DiDonato).

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