

# Phoenix VA Health Care System

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## Summary of June 2022 Stakeholder Report

### COVID Update

- Facility is now focused on the *VHA COVID-19 Operational Plan*. Emergency Incident Command has been sunset at this time and can be resumed at any time if needed. Hospitalizations continue to be monitored and the facility has a dozen COVID patients in house.
- Vaccines and boosters are available at multiple locations for Veterans, spouses, and caregivers. Walk-in hours and appointments are available. *(To schedule, you may call the COVID vaccine line for an appointment: 602-604-3915)*
- COVID -19 Testing  
[You must have an order from your provider to receive a test.](#)
- COVID Vaccines for Veterans in the Community
  - Veterans may also get vaccines in the community, as they are covered through community care. The VA can provide vaccines for Veterans who received their first dose in the community. Veterans will need to show their vaccine card as proof of their first/initial dose.

### Veteran Experience:

#### Masking Update:

- We continue to require FDA-approved Medical Procedure masks for all who enter our facilities. VA will issue a disposable mask when you arrive on campus if you do not have one. This applies to all patients, visitors, employees, contractors, and volunteers and applies to all buildings in which PVAHCS employees are working.

#### Visitor Policy:

- All visitors will be screened according to CDC guidelines and wear a mask at all times.
- Our visitor policy has returned to pre-COVID hours.
- No visitors under age 15 on inpatient units.
- Visitors are now allowed in our Community Living Center in a limited capacity based on community positivity and transmission rates.

PVAHCS Update (June 24, 2022)

## **Other Veteran Information:**



### **National Veterans Wheelchair Games:**

The 41<sup>st</sup> Annual National Veterans Wheelchair Games are almost here! We are hosting this year's games here in Tempe from July 7-12. We need 1,000 volunteers to make these games happen, so please consider volunteering your time to help at the event! Volunteers are needed for events, luggage, durable medical equipment, hotels, and more. Information can be found at [www.wheelchairgames.org](http://www.wheelchairgames.org)

### **All of Us Research Program**

Our participants are our partners in All of Us Research, and thanks to their participation, we are building one of the most diverse datasets to drive new insights into health and disease. Help us to ensure you are represented in this historic research program. Learn more or enroll at [Veterans.JoinAllofUs.org](http://Veterans.JoinAllofUs.org) or call 833-805-0426. <https://allofus.nih.gov/>

### **Finding Meaning and Hope Group**

Are you caring for someone with dementia? Join a group of fellow caregivers to discuss how to regain hope and build resilience when dealing with the complexities of ongoing loss associated with caring for someone with dementia. This 10-week discussion series offers real help in dealing with the challenges, losses, and rewards of being a family caregiver of someone who is or is becoming, psychologically absent. Contact the Phoenix VA COACH program at 602-277-5551 ext 7393 for more information. We kicked off our first one on June 2. The current group is full; however, you can call now for the next group.

## **Reminders:**

**Emergency Department Door Closure:** The entrance into the Emergency Department will be closed for construction for the new Emergency Room Expansion project. The remaining nearby entrances, sidewalks, and circle drive will not be affected. Signage will be posted directing pedestrian traffic to the Emergency Department.



**The Phoenix VA Health Care System is hiring!**  
We have a variety of positions available! Apply today at [www.usajobs.gov](http://www.usajobs.gov).

### **In the News:**



#### **Phoenix 32<sup>nd</sup> Street VA Clinic is NOW OPEN**

Our brand-new, state-of-the-art clinic, the Phoenix 32<sup>nd</sup> Street VA Health Care Clinic, officially opened to patient care on June 27. We hosted Deputy Secretary of Veterans Affairs, the Honorable Donald Remy, along with the Assistant Under Secretary for Health for Operations, RimaAnn Nelson, for a ribbon-cutting celebration on June 22. This Clinic consolidates primary care and mental health services, along with some ancillary services, a Veterans Resource Center, classroom space, a Canteen and Retail store, and more, all in one 200,000-square-foot building. Primary care patients from our Midtown and Thunderbird locations, as well as Emerald and Gold Clinics from the main facility, along with Mental Health from the main facility, will now receive their care at the 32<sup>nd</sup> Street location. Appointments will automatically transfer to the new location! There is ample parking and public transportation is also available nearby.

***Check out the [post on Facebook](#) for photos of the ceremony.***

#### **National Veterans Creative Arts Festival**

The Phoenix VA's 16<sup>th</sup> Annual Creative Arts Festival will take place on June 30. Doors open at 10 a.m. in the ACC Basement. The awards ceremony will take place at 11:30 a.m.

Nationwide, VA medical facilities use the creative arts as one form of rehabilitative treatment to help Veterans recover from and cope with physical and emotional disabilities. Across the country each year, Veterans enrolled at VA health care facilities compete in a local creative arts competition, including categories in the visual arts division that range from oil painting to leatherwork to paint-by-number kits. In addition, there are categories in writing as well as the performing arts of dance, drama, and music. For more information about the full program visit the [National Veterans Creative Arts Festival website](#).

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### **Phoenix VA Pride Month Resource Fair**

The Phoenix VA hosted a Pride Month Resource Fair, June 17, at the Carl T. Hayden VA Medical Center. VA Information and Resource booths were available for a variety of topics and services. For additional information on LGBTQ+ services for Veterans, please contact the Phoenix VA LGBTQ+ Veteran Care Coordinator, Dr. Ash Senter, at 602-234-7190.

### **Phoenix VA Juneteenth Celebration**

The Phoenix VA Black/African American Special Emphasis Program hosted a special Juneteenth recognition and celebration, June 17 at the medical center. Historical information on Juneteenth was shared with all employees.

