

Phoenix VA Health Care System

Summary of August 2022 Stakeholder Report

COVID Update

- Facility is now focused on the *VHA COVID-19 Operational Plan*. Emergency Incident Command has been sunset and can be resumed at any time if needed. Hospitalizations continue to be monitored and we are still following the latest CDC guidelines.
- 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 from our testing centers. We are also offering free COVID-19 self-test kits for Veteran Patients. These free COVID-19 self-test kits are available to all Veteran patients at their regularly scheduled appointments.
- COVID Vaccines for Veterans in the Community
 - Veterans may 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.
- Did you hear? Novavax COVID-19 vaccine is here! Novavax is a traditional protein-based vaccine, like annual flu vaccines. The Carl T. Hayden VA Medical Center now offers Novavax to unvaccinated Veterans, employees, spouses of Veterans, caregivers, and CHAMPVA recipients. To learn more about COVID-19 vaccines at VA, visit <https://www.va.gov/health-care/covid-19-vaccine/>
 - *Veterans:*
No Booster
No walk-ins -Veterans must schedule an appointment with the call center at 602-277-5551 ext. 2251.
Unvaccinated individuals (have had any type of COVID vaccine)
 - *Novavax COVID-19 Vaccine is the first “protein subunit” COVID-19 vaccine available for use in the U.S. With this COVID-19 vaccine, the spike protein itself is injected into the body to induce an immune response. This type of vaccine has been used in the U.S for more than 30 years. It is the*

same type of vaccine as some of our current shingles and flu vaccines. For more information visit [Understanding Protein Subunit COVID-19 Vaccines | CDC](#).

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

Other Veteran Information:

Veterans Crisis Line: This shorter, three-digit number provides an easier-to-remember way to access help for those who need it.



New number. Same support.
Dial 988 then Press 1

Access to Care Website: VHA has launched an updated Access to Care website [Accesstocare.va.gov](https://www.accesstocare.va.gov). This improved site is a resource for Veterans and their caregivers, providing them with an improved user experience, additional access and satisfaction information, and improved wait times that better align with their experience when scheduling appointments.

Reminders:

Midtown Wellness and Spine Center is Now Open: Acupuncture and Chiropractic services have been moved to Midtown, to be a part of the new Midtown Wellness and Spine Center located at 5040 N. 15th Ave, Phoenix, AZ 85015.

Mesa Annex is Now Open: The Mesa Annex opened August 1st and is located at 4135 S. Power Road Suite 103, Mesa AZ 85212. Services available at this location will include general mental health and compensation and pension exams.

Optometry Department Moving: Optometry (eye exams) & Optical (eyeglasses) are moving to the Thunderbird VA Clinic on August 29th.

Mitchell Off-Site Parking Lot: Effective August 19, 2022, the Mitchell off-site parking lot will no longer be available for patient and employee parking at the Carl T. Hayden VAMC.

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.

In the News:

Adopt A Street



Interim Medical Center Director Michael Welsh, and a small crew of Phoenix VA employees participated in the Adopt A Street program on Saturday, August 13, 2022. The Phoenix VA “adopted” the section of Indian School Road between 7th Street and 7th Avenues and holds a clean-up at least quarterly.