

MOAA REPORTER

MOAA Greater Dallas & North Texas Chapter

Volume 47 Number 2

February 2021



COVID-19 Vaccinations



I hope everyone is following the CDC guidelines and staying safe (6 feet apart) during the pandemic. It appears the availability of COVID-19 vaccine is starting to ramp up although the distribution still appears to be chaotic. The experts recommend that persons eligible for the vaccine register with as many providers as possible. The sources are too many to list in this article;

however, I recommend everyone check the following sources and register to receive the vaccine if the meet the eligibility criteria. Check the sources often as the availability changes daily. Remember – you must register and schedule an appointment when notified.

- Persons registered in the VA Health Care system should contact their VA hospital or clinic to schedule an appointment. The VA is currently only giving vaccinations at the VA Medical Center in Dallas. As of the publication of this newsletter, the VA is scheduling appointments within 2-3 days.
- You can register to receive a vaccination at one of the Dallas County vaccination hubs on their website [Coronavirus \(COVID-19\) | Vaccine \(dallascounty.org\)](https://www.dallascounty.org/health/coronavirus/). Dallas County is currently operating three vaccination hubs.
- You can register to receive a vaccination at one of the Collin County vaccination hubs on their website [COVID-19 Vaccines \(collincountytx.gov\)](https://www.collincountytx.gov/health/coronavirus/). The wait list is currently very long; however, the county announced this week it is scheduled to receive a large increase in doses and it will open two additional vaccine hubs.
- Check with your doctor or medical provider. If available, register your medical provider's portal. Many providers are starting to receive the vaccine.

Beware of Scams and Frauds



It's a dangerous world! We all need to be on guard against The internet and cell phones have opened a whole new world for us. We can deposit checks from home, make reservations for a vacation anywhere in the world, Face Time with our grandkids, and even attend virtual MOAA Chapter meetings. But with convenience comes danger. Criminals are scheming to steal our identities, our money and even our way of life. When I was a kid the only time we locked the doors to our house is when we went on vacation. Now, we not only keep house doors locked at all times, we lock our phones, or Wi-Fi, our cars and sometimes our credit. MOAA National has put together an excellent overview of the scams

and frauds we face today along with advice on how to avoid them and what to do if you are compromised. You can find a copy of their presentation by going to on our chapter website www.moaanorthtexas.org and clicking on the Extras button on the home page.

The fourth page of the presentation lists over 50 types of scams and frauds and ends with the statement "There is a new one everyday". The presentation provides many practical tips: don't share personal information with anyone, don't talk to strangers who knock at your door, don't open suspicious emails,

don't click on links in emails, don't answer phone calls from unknown callers. The list of **Don'ts** is endless. What to do: Be cautious, if uncertain say "No thank you" and hang up, use strong passwords, protect documents containing personal information, shred documents. The list of **Do's** is also endless; the MOAA Scams and Frauds presentations provides may additional useful tips. The bottom line is "be cautious". Criminals do not have to be physically present to steal from you; they can be halfway around the world to steal in ways you cannot imagine. If you have a question consult with someone you trust or contact the institution directly or via their official website.

MOAA's 2021 Veteran Health Care Priorities



The coming months are sure to be fast-paced and full of challenges, especially with crises like the pandemic and economic uncertainty facing our country. MOAA will remain actively engaged with lawmakers, administration officials, and our partners, but most of all with our members and those we serve, in an out of uniform, to provide the most current information on these and many other important issues. Help MOAA educate the new administration and Congressional leaders about MOAA's 2021 Veteran Health Care Priorities.

Visit the [MOAA Take Action Center](#) to urge your elected representatives to act on these important veterans' health issues:

- **Implementing the VA MISSION Act.** The 2018 legislation represented a major shift in VA health care delivery. The massive bill will take years to implement but will result in more options where veterans can receive care, expand caregiver programs to veterans of all eras, enhance VA's workforce capabilities, and modernize medical facilities.
- **Expanding access to care for veterans in rural communities.** While not a new priority, this issue has taken on greater importance during the pandemic, where lack of internet access may limit a veteran's ability to access much-needed online or telemedicine resources.
- **Implementing several critically important measures signed into law in 2020.** These MOAA-supported laws address the rising rates of mental health conditions and veteran suicides, as well as provide health care and benefit improvements for veterans, particularly those in need. Examples include the Commander John Scott Hannon Veterans Mental Health Care Improvement Act; the Veterans Comprehensive, Prevention, Access to Care, and Treatment (COMPACT) Act; and the Johnny Isakson and David P. Roe, M.D. Veterans Health Care and Benefits Improvement Act.
- **Implementing the joint VA-DoD electronic health record.** This long-sought move would allow clinicians to easily access veterans' medical information.
- **Eliminating health disparities for women, minority, and underserved veterans.** The VA must ensure a welcoming and safe environment, and should remove barriers to provide timely, sensitive, and high-quality care, particularly for veterans at high risk.
- **Assessing the impact of COVID-19 on VA's workforce.** MOAA has worked with Congress in recent years to strengthen and modernize the VA workforce and to fill ongoing critical employee shortages. It is important to fully assess the pandemic's impact on the workforce and to apply lessons learned during the crisis to make improvements to human capital and throughout the health care system.
- **Improving care in state veterans' homes and VA long-term care facilities.** These improvements include strengthening VA's oversight and engagement in facility inspections, as well as requiring documented resolution of reported discrepancies.

Veterans Center of North Texas



The Veterans Center of North Texas provides referral services and direct assistance to all North Texas Veterans and their families. The Center can connect Veterans to over 150 organizations that offer specialized services to help Veterans and their families maintain healthy life styles. The types of services are endless. Their services include employment assistance, affordable housing, emergency shelter, transportation, VA and other benefits, end of life planning, transition and many others. In 2018 the Center began offering direct assistance to Veterans and their families. Working with partners they were able to offer direct financial aid, food and clothing to Veterans in need. When the COVID-19 pandemic hit in 2020 they were able to help over 200 Veteran families pay rent and other bills, eat healthy meals and clothe their children. The Center has served over 5,200 Veterans since it opened its doors in 2015. They provide services to **all veterans** and they **never** charge a fee. The MOAA Greater Dallas & North Texas Chapter is proud to be a partner of the Veterans Center of North Texas. If you know of anyone who needs help for any reason or just wants to talk, have them contact the Center at 214-600-2966. If you would like to volunteer to help fellow Veterans at the Center, contact Dave Schafer at 214-577-4107.

Chapter News

The Chapter completed its 2021 Membership Renewal Campaign on 21 January. Thanks to everyone who renewed their membership. Special thanks to everyone who contributed to the Scholarship Fund; your generous contributions will enable the Chapter to award scholarships to outstanding JROTC cadets at the 54 DFW area high schools we support. The Chapter leadership will be finalizing the 2021 Membership Directory over the next several weeks; look for the Directory in your mailbox in early March. The Chapter's general membership meeting schedule for 2021 has not been set. The Board of Directors will finalize the 2021 calendar at its February meeting; look for the schedule in next month's newsletter. We are always looking for help on the Board of Directors, committees and special projects. Please contact Dave Schafer at 214-577-4107 if you can help.