

The **Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act** invests more than \$19.6 billion in the COVID-19 response at the Department of Veterans Affairs. This bill directs \$14.4 billion toward medical services at VA facilities such as telehealth, supplies, testing kits, and personal protective equipment.

### **Immediate relief for Veterans:**

- Full, \$1,200 economic assistance payments for American adults, including for the lowest income taxpayers, and \$500 per child under the age of 17.
- All U.S. residents with adjusted gross income up to \$75,000 (\$150,000 married), who are not a dependent of another taxpayer and have a work eligible social security number, are eligible for the full \$1,200 (\$2,400 married) rebate. In addition, they are eligible for an additional \$500 per child.
- Payments will be directly deposited into your bank account using information from your 2018 or 2019 tax returns. The IRS expects to direct deposit payments in mid-April.
- Full, \$1,200 economic assistance payments for American adults, including for the lowest-income taxpayers, and \$500 per child under the age of 17.
- The IRS has confirmed that veterans and their beneficiaries who receive Compensation and Pension (C&P) benefit payments from VA will receive a \$1,200 Economic Impact Payment with no further action needed on their part. You can read more about this announcement [here](#).

### **Procedures at [VA Loma Linda](#):**

- As of April 1, VA Loma Linda Healthcare System will screen everyone entering the Medical Center or any of its clinics and visitors will be limited to inpatient veterans. Emergency services will still be provided.
- All elective and non-urgent appointments, procedures and groups are being converted to virtual or telephone appointments or being rescheduled for a later time. If you have an upcoming appointment you can do the following:
  - Use [Secure Messaging through My HealtheVet](#) to contact provider.
  - Use the [VA appointments](#) tool to request a telehealth appointment online.
- For telehealth appointments, your provider will send you an invitation for the VA Video Connect tool. You can learn more [here](#).

### **Resources for veterans in crisis:**

- Call the Veteran Crisis Line at 1 (800) 273-8255 and press 1, visit the [VeteransCrisisLine.Net/Chat](#) or text 838255.

### **Frequently Asked Questions:**

#### **I tried calling my clinic and am unable to get through. What should I do?**

- **Use Secure Messaging.** You can [send a secure message to your provider](#) about any health concern or question.

#### **I am a student veteran and my school has switched to online courses. Will I still be able to receive my monthly housing payment?**

- Yes. Student veterans will be able to maintain their current monthly housing allowance rate even if their college or university switches to online courses.

**I am a caregiver and am concerned about caring for veterans during this time. Who should I contact?**

- Visit the Hidden Hero's [website](#) for helpful COVID-19 information.

**What should I do if I need to refill my prescription?**

- If you currently get your prescription sent to you by mail, you'll continue to receive your refills as normal.
- If you usually pick up your prescriptions in person, use the VA's [online prescription refill and tracking](#) tool. To make sure you have your medicine in time, request your refill at least 10 days before you'll run out of your current prescription.
- For questions about your prescriptions, [send a secure message](#) to your provider through My HealtheVet.

*Don't see an answer to your question? You can read more [here](#) or contact my Palm Desert Office at (760) 424-8888.*