

The good news is that the COVID-19 vaccines currently in use in the U.S. offer good protection against the COVID-19 variants we know most about. COVID-19 vaccines have shown excellent effectiveness in preventing hospitalizations and death. This includes the Delta strain.

The Delta variant most severely impacts those people not fully vaccinated against COVID-19. This includes people who only received the first dose of a two-dose COVID-19 vaccine series, such as Pfizer-BioNTech or Moderna.

How can I protect myself against the Delta variant?

You can best protect yourself against the Delta variant by becoming fully vaccinated against COVID-19.

Experts at the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention are continuing to study the Delta variant. They have concluded that COVID-19 vaccines offer good protection against COVID-19 variants.

Those who receive two-dose vaccines will be fully vaccinated two weeks after they receive their second dose. Two-dose vaccines include the Pfizer-BioNTech and Moderna vaccines. Those who receive single-dose vaccines like Johnson & Johnson's Janssen vaccine will be fully vaccinated two weeks after their dose.

VA will provide the second doses to employees, Veterans or anyone who qualifies under the Save Lives Act—such as spouses and caregivers—no matter where they received their first dose, if that is more convenient.

Will other variants like the Delta variant continue to spread in the future?

Viruses such as the Delta variant continue to mutate and spread as long as they have the ability to do so. The most effective means of slowing and stopping the spread of these variants is vaccination. When a large percentage of a community is fully vaccinated against COVID-19, the virus will not be able to spread within it. This will also serve to decrease the development of new variants. Fully vaccinated people protect both themselves and their community against COVID-19 and similar variants.

Learn more

If you are undecided about getting the vaccine and need more information to make a decision, check out our Vaccine Questions page. The page includes videos, downloadable information and frequently asked questions.

References

COVID-19 Vaccines Work | CDC

Scholarship and Business Award Applications are now open!

July 27, 2021 [Women Veterans Alliance](#)

Applications are now open!

Application period: July 15th through August 15th

More Info or email: scholarships@womenveteransgiving.org

More Info or email: mwsba@womenveteransgiving.org

WVG is committed to narrowing the gap between civilian and military relations, empowering women of all leadership positions, assisting in the reintegration to civilian life, finding fulfillment in the professional world, encouraging a sense of belonging, encouraging entrepreneurs and small business owners, and building a supportive educated community. WVG raises funds to provide women veterans scholarships for the Unconference and small business funding as well as other professional development opportunities.

Support the WVG programs and help women veterans with:

Annual Small Business Award

Scholarships for Professional Development Conferences including Women Veterans Alliance Unconference

Other Professional Development Opportunities

button donate now - Scholarship and Business Award Applications are now open!

Man who shot at National Guard soldiers during Minnesota protests gets eight years in prison

The shooting on April 18 of this year [resulted in minor injuries](#) to two soldiers who were inside of a Humvee.

[Roughly 3,000](#) Minnesota Guardsmen were mobilized in April during the trial of Derek Chauvin, the police officer [found guilty of all charges](#) for the death of George Floyd.

Thomas fired “multiple shots” at a team of soldiers from an SUV on April 18, according to [a press release](#) from the U.S. Attorney’s Office. One of the bullets went through the windshield of the vehicle.

One of the soldiers inside the vehicle was taken to the hospital “for treatment of injuries from shattered glass.” The other soldier was treated for superficial wounds at the scene. A search of Thomas’ SUV later found “a Springfield Armory XD-9 9mm semi-automatic pistol, a .22 caliber revolver with an obliterated serial number, ammunition, and two discharged cartridge casings,” according to the release.

Sgt. Justin Haynes told WCCO, [a CBS affiliate](#), that the Guardsmen were “aware that everyone is feeling a lot of different types of ways.”

“All we can do is kind of stand strong while we’re here,” he said at the time. “It is surreal because I don’t expect to get shot at in uniform protecting my streets, on my streets that I come home to.”

The Star Tribune reports that Thomas will be in prison for roughly five years, with credit for the time served since he was arrested.

For first time, some burn pit victims will get presumptive status for disability benefits

An estimated 3.5 million veterans suffered some burn pit exposure overseas during deployments in the last 20 years.



Veterans exposed to harmful burn pit smoke while serving in certain overseas war zones will for the first time get presumptive disability benefits status under a new announcement by the Department of Veterans Affairs on Monday.

The move comes after years of lobbying from veterans advocates and months of legislative pressure from Capitol Hill on the issue. In a statement, VA Secretary Denis McDonough called the move “the right decision” to recognize the sacrifice of veterans. Initially, the new move will cover only veterans suffering from three illnesses — asthma, rhinitis and sinusitis — and only if they manifested within 10 years of a veteran’s overseas service. For now, the new presumptive benefits status does not include any rare cancers that numerous veterans groups have said have occurred in alarmingly high rates among veterans exposed to overseas burn pits. VA officials said more conditions may be added in the future.

Presumptive benefits status allows veterans applying for disability benefits to forgo certain paperwork and medical exams used to prove their injuries and illnesses are directly connected to their time in the military.

Similar status has been granted in the past for illnesses related to Agent Orange exposure during the Vietnam War, where widespread use of the chemical defoliant was well-known but difficult to prove in specific locations decades later.

Areas and time periods covered include the Southwest Asia theater of operations (Iraq, Saudi Arabia, Bahrain, Qatar and more) from August 1990 to the present and Afghanistan, Uzbekistan, Syria or Djibouti from Sept. 19, 2001 to the present.

An internal review by VA officials determined that “there was sufficient evidence to presume that veterans have been exposed to particulate matter” during service in those locations.

In the past, Veterans Affairs officials have estimated more than 3.5 million troops were exposed to the toxic smoke from burn pits during overseas deployments over the last 20 years. But since few overseas combat sites routinely monitored air quality and chemical exposure of troops, directly linking those pits to health issues later in life has proven diffi

Advocates have criticized VA frequently rejecting claims made by veterans suffering from rare respiratory illnesses and cancers believed related to burn pit smoke, insisting they could be more accommodating with those cases.

But VA officials have insisted for years that any such move would require congressional action. Earlier this year, following the introduction of several high-profile measures to address the problem, McDonough said he would re-examine VA policies.

Officials did not say how much granting the new claims may cost, or when payouts will begin.



Mission First

Think Like a Soldier

Fight Like a Mother

Are you a new, future, or an experienced mom with a strong desire to walk with God in motherhood? This 3-day devotional adapted from the book- A Christian Mother's Creed will help you get started. You will learn how to become an influential mother, put God first in motherhood, think like a soldier, leave a legacy of faith for your children, and practice kingdom-centered mothering.

VA to start processing disability claims for certain conditions related to particulate matter

VA will begin processing disability claims Aug. 2 for asthma, rhinitis and sinusitis on a presumptive basis based on presumed particulate matter exposures during military service in Southwest Asia and certain other areas – if these conditions manifested within 10 years of a qualifying period of military service.

VA conducted the first iteration of a newly formed internal VA process to review scientific evidence to support rulemaking, resulting in the recommendation to consider creation of new presumptions of service connection for respiratory conditions based on VA’s evaluation of a National Academies of Science, Engineering and Medicine report and other evidence.

The process concluded that particulate matter pollution is associated with chronic asthma, rhinitis and sinusitis for Veterans who served in the Southwest Asia theater of operations beginning Aug. 2, 1990 to the present, or Afghanistan, Uzbekistan, Syria or Djibouti beginning Sept. 19, 2001 to the present. VA’s review also concluded that there was sufficient evidence to presume that these Veterans have been exposed to particulate matter.

“I announced my intent to initiate rulemaking on May 27 to consider adding respiratory conditions to the list of chronic disabilities,” said Secretary of Veterans Affairs Denis McDonough. “Through this process I determined that the evidence provided was sufficient to establish presumptions of service connection for these three respiratory conditions. This is the right decision, and VA will continue to use a holistic approach in determining toxic exposure presumptives moving forward.”

The Southwest Asia theater of operations refers to Iraq, Kuwait, Saudi Arabia, the neutral zone between Iraq and Saudi Arabia, Bahrain, Qatar, the United Arab Emirates, Oman, the Gulf of Aden, the Gulf of Oman, the Persian Gulf, the Arabian Sea, the Red Sea and the airspace above these locations.

VA will conduct outreach to impacted Veterans and survivors to inform them about their eligibility and will provide information on how to apply. Veterans and survivors who believe they may be eligible for the newly established presumptive conditions are encouraged to apply. They should file a VA Form 21-526EZ if applying for the first time or a VA Form 20-0995 if they are reapplying for these conditions. For more information on the new presumptive conditions, visit our website at [Airborne Hazards and Burn Pit Exposures – Public Health \(va.gov\)](#).

To apply for benefits, Veterans and survivors may visit [VA.gov](#) or call toll-free at 800-827-1000. Within the next week, you can view the interim final rule at [www.regulations.gov](#).



Verse of the Day

Let us hear the conclusion of the whole matter: Fear God, and keep his commandments: for this is the whole duty of man.

Ecclesiastes 12:13 KJV

YOU TOO CAN BE A MEMBER OF THE VETERANS FOR CHRIST, INC.

Sign up online to become an associate member. The annual associate membership of \$120.00 which can be used as a tax deduction for supporters. Registration fees can be paid online through our PayPal account. You will get a free VFC T-shirt with your associate membership. Your tax deductible membership fee will support the VFC mission.

All Honorably Discharged Veterans are welcome to come and observe the VFC; feel free to ask questions and learn more. If we don't know the answer we know someone who does. Please browse our web site www.veteransforchristinc.org. There you'll find information on many subjects of interest to veterans. You'll also find a Newsletter for your branch of service and links to Social Security and many other links with an abundance of information.

Our monthly meetings are on hold until the pandemic is cleared and a vaccine is developed. No meetings are being held at the Wesley Chapel Library at 2861 Wesley Chapel Rd., Decatur, Ga. Our meetings are the fourth Wednesday of every month and start at 6:30 (PM) for approximately one hour and a half, unless otherwise advertised. We will be respectful of your time.

Thank you for your interest in the VFC. We look forward to communicating and fellowshiping with you soon. We are looking for a corporate sponsor for our VFC Gerald Prince College Scholarship which is donated each September at our Anniversary Luncheon

"Be on your guard, stand firm in the faith, being men of courage, be strong." 1Cor 16:13

Sincerely,

William A. Harris, Jr.

William A. Harris, Jr., USAF Retired
President, Veterans for Christ, Inc.

www.veteransforchristinc.org

Need to contact VA?

Veterans Crisis Line: 1-800-273-8255 and press 1, Chat, or Text 838255
Homeless Veteran Resources: 1-877-424-3838 or Chat
White House VA Hotline: 1-855-948-2311

Don't know what number to call?

[1-800-MyVA411](https://www.va.gov/myva) (800-698-2411) is never the wrong number