

VA



U.S. Department
Of Veterans Affairs
Veterans Health Administration

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NEWS RELEASE

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Jackson VA Reaches Vaccine Milestone

JACKSON, MISSISSIPPI (*February 23, 2021*) - The G.V. (Sonny) Montgomery VA Medical Center administered its first dose of the Moderna COVID-19 vaccine on December 22, 2020. Since then, both Veterans and key hospital staff have been vaccinated, reaching 10,000 doses administered on February 17, 2021.

"Our vaccination team has done really amazing work," said Acting Medical Center Director Kai Mentzer. "The sheer volume of vaccinations is unlike anything most health care professionals have ever seen. These dedicated women and men arrive at work every day eager to care for our nation's heroes. It's heartwarming to hear the appreciative comments from Veterans."

Currently, the Jackson VA Medical Center is vaccinating Veterans who are 50 years and older, or have serious underlying health issues.

"We all recognize the importance of getting vaccinated and battling this pandemic that has wreaked havoc in everyone's life," said Mentzer. "As more vaccine becomes available, we will be able to administer to more groups."

The Moderna COVID-19 vaccine is a two-shot immunization, about one month (28 days) apart, and is administered in the muscle of the upper arm. The most common side effects are injection site pain, fatigue, and headache. Any side effects usually disappear within 48 hours. Clinical staff are available for assistance throughout the vaccination process.

VA Care Teams are calling eligible Veterans to schedule vaccinations. There is no need for Veterans to call, stop by, or preregister.

Veterans are able to get the latest information and sign-up for updates on VA's [COVID Vaccine webpage](#).

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