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News Release

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VA San Juan Caribbean Healthcare System (VACHS) begins COVID-19 Vaccine Distribution with Moderna at selected VA Clinics.

Mayaguez and Ponce, Puerto Rico — The San Juan VA Caribbean Healthcare System and selected Community Based Outpatient Clinics (CBOCS) will start COVID-19 vaccination tomorrow following the U.S. Food and Drug Administration's Emergency Use Authorization for this vaccine.

"The VA Clinics in Ponce and Mayaguez will be offering COVID-19 vaccine to all patients 65 years old and above, starting tomorrow!" said Daniel Massa Jr., spokesperson and Chief, Patient and Community Relations Services Office of the San Juan VA Hospital. **Additionally, the San Juan VACHS will be vaccinating during the Martin Luther King observance day this next Monday, January 18, 2021, from 08:00 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. and no appointment is necessary.** "Receiving the vaccine is like having hope delivered, healing is coming! As vaccine supplies increase, our ultimate goal is to offer COVID-19 vaccination to all veterans and employees who want to be vaccinated."

Veterans visiting the San Juan VACHS or their selected clinics for vaccination may come as walk-in or by appointment during regular hours. Veterans in San Juan VACHS should report to the OPA patio. Patients interested in getting vaccinated at a later time, can have their interest documented in their medical records. Sites were identified based on need for the vaccine according to CDC's prioritization.

The Moderna COVID-19 vaccine was 94 percent effective in clinical trials in preventing COVID-19 disease. The vaccine is administered in two doses, 28 days apart. The side effects appear similar to those of other vaccines and are short-lived.

[Thirty-seven medical centers](#) began offering the Pfizer-BioNTech COVID-19 vaccine to health care personnel and Veterans Dec 14. Fifteen additional VA facilities will receive an allocation of Pfizer-BioNTech COVID-19 vaccine the week of December 21.

Even after receiving COVID-19 vaccination, employees and Veterans should continue wearing face coverings, practicing physical distancing and washing hands often.

Veterans can get up-to-date information on VA's [VA COVID-19 vaccine webpage](#), and sign up to receive regular vaccine updates on the on the VA's [Stay Informed](#) page. For more information and to schedule appointments, the direct line is: 787-641-4591 from 8:00 am to 8:00 pm.

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