

**Coronavirus - Current State**  
**Aleda E. Lutz VA and Community Based Outpatient Clinics**  
**Updated March 17, 2020**  
**Updates are Highlighted**

The following provides a current state based on the Coronavirus and precautionary measures to support Veteran and staff safety.

While the Centers for Disease Control still considers COVID-19 to be a low threat to the general American public, the Aleda E. Lutz VA in Saginaw, and Community Based Outpatient Clinics throughout Michigan, are paying special attention to it.

As part of this process, everyone who enters the campus will be pre-screened. This may lengthen entry times, so patients are advised to allow for that when arriving for their appointments. **During this time, the VA Medical Center in Saginaw will only allow individuals to enter through the main VA entrance and the CLC entrance, Monday – Friday, or the Main Entrance only on weekends.**

The screening consists of three questions:

1. Do you have a fever or worsening cough or shortness of breath or flu-like symptoms?
2. Have you or a close contact traveled to an area with widespread or sustained community transmission of COVID-19 within 14 days of symptom onset?
3. Have you been in close contact with someone, including health care workers, confirmed to have COVID-19?
4. You may have your temperature taken as well.

Per CDC guidance and VA protocols, individuals known to be at risk for a COVID-19 infection are immediately isolated to prevent potential spread to others.

Veterans and staff are encouraged to take everyday preventive actions to avoid being exposed to the virus:

- Wash your hands often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds.
- Avoid touching your eyes, nose and mouth with unwashed hands.
- Stay home if you are sick or becoming sick.
- Use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer that contains at least 60% alcohol.
- If you have symptoms or have been exposed to someone with symptoms, call the VA before going to the facility.

Additionally, all activities/events at the VA have been cancelled for 30 days or until further notice.

Admissions to our Community Living Center or Palliative Care Unit are restricted at this time. Certain criteria will need to be met to be admitted to assure the Veteran is free of the Coronavirus before admission. Additionally, the VA is not allowing visitors to their Community Living Center, and there are restrictions on the number of visitors on the Palliative Care (end of life) Unit. See more here: <https://www.va.gov/opa/pressrel/pressrelease.cfm?id=5400>

UPDATES:

**Visitors returning from international travel must be in the United States, symptom-free, for 14 days. Visitors with additional questions about their symptoms should be referred to their medical**

professional. VHA is taking these proactive precautions to protect our Veterans, employees, and the communities we serve.

VHA is sensitive to the separation this restriction causes our patients and their loved ones, but VHA believes this measure of protection is essential at this time to keep people safe. Only one visitor per Veteran is allowed for Veterans who require assistance to get to and from an appointment, providing support to in-patient Veterans in palliative or hospice care, and Veterans who are having major procedures.

Access will be determined on a case-by-case decision where the visitor is critical to the care of the Veteran. Only visitors without symptoms will be permitted to enter the Medical Center as dictated by the current situation. No visitors under the age of 18 are permitted, including infants. No Visitors will be allowed to wait in common areas (canteen areas, waiting rooms, vending areas, etc.). These restrictions apply to all care locations, including health care facilities, ambulatory care centers, urgent care centers, and emergency rooms.

Veterans appointments and elective surgical procedures are being reviewed and may be rescheduled. This will be determined based on a clinical review.

For more information about the Coronavirus, please visit: <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/index.html>.