

VA



U.S. Department
of Veterans Affairs

News Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

February 17, 2021

Aleda E. Lutz VA Medical Center
1500 Weiss Street
Saginaw, MI 48602

Contact: Tara Scheuer, Public Affairs Officer
(989) 497-2500, extension 13010
tara.scheuer@va.gov

We invite any media interested in interviewing our VA staff to learn more about care and services to contact our Public Affairs Officer at 989-497-2500, extension 13010 or e-mail tara.scheuer@va.gov

Aleda E. Lutz VAMC helps VA reach milestone vaccinating its 1 millionth Veteran

Saginaw, MI — Today, the Department of Veterans Affairs' (VA) Veterans Health Administration vaccinated its 1 millionth Veteran with their first dose of COVID-19 vaccine.

Aleda E. Lutz VAMC has administered 5,006 first doses of the Moderna vaccine to our Veterans and 1,762 second doses. The VA began COVID-19 immunizations in December 2020. As of February 17, VA has vaccinated 329,685 of Veterans with a second dose.

Second doses of the Pfizer-BioNTech vaccine are given 21 days after the first dose, second doses of the Moderna vaccine are given 28 days after the first dose; the second dose completes the course of vaccination. Currently, our medical center is receiving the Moderna vaccine.

VA's [COVID-19 National Summary](#) publishes vaccination data daily on Veterans, including information on employee and federal partner vaccinations. For those reviewing the site, when an individual receives both doses from VA, they have completed their vaccine course; therefore, "second dose" and "completed" are synonymous.

VA follows current [Centers for Disease Control and Prevention \(CDC\) guidance](#) and the [VA COVID-19 Vaccination Distribution Plan](#). During the limited supply phase, VA facilities have made progress through CDC Phase 1a and are offering vaccines to Veterans in Phase 1b, which includes Veterans aged 65 and older. However, some sites are offering vaccine to additional Veterans at increased risk for severe illness from COVID-19 as supply permits.

"VA guidance encourages local flexibility in order to maximize COVID-19 vaccine access and efficiency and limit potential vaccine waste," said Acting VA **Under Secretary for Health** Richard Stone, M.D. "In this limited supply phase, our COVID-19 vaccination strategy is balancing site-specific resources, facility needs, vaccine

availability, and status of the pandemic locally, as well as strict storage, handling and transportation parameters of available vaccines.”

Dr. Barbara Bates, Aleda E. Lutz VAMC Director stated, “We are encouraged by the number of Veterans we have been able to vaccinate so far and look forward to meeting VA’s goal of offering vaccines to all eligible Veterans and employees who want to be vaccinated.”

Our medical center and Community Based Outpatient Clinics (CBOCs) are reaching out to Veterans who are eligible for vaccination. Veterans who would like additional information can visit the [VA COVID-19 vaccines](#) webpage, visit their local facility’s website at <https://www.saginaw.va.gov/> or call our COVID-19 Hotline at 989-321-4155.

The Aleda E. Lutz VAMC in Saginaw, Michigan operates an 81-bed skilled nursing and rehabilitation Community Living Center. It provides care to over 37,400 Veterans in a 35-county geographic area, from mid-Michigan to the Mackinac Bridge. Veterans also receive care at one of our nine VA Community Based Outpatient Clinics located throughout Michigan. More information about this VA can be found at www.saginaw.va.gov.

###