MILITARY & VETERANS SECTOR UPDATE

CORONAVIRUS DISEASE 2019 (COVID-19)

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 12, 2020

Thank you to everyone who was able to join us for this week's telebriefing for military, veterans, and their families!

==**TELEBRIEFING SCHEDULE UPDATE:**==
==*Our telebriefings will now take place every second and fourth Thursday of the month.*==

Make sure you join us <u>**Thursday, February 25th from 10 - 11 AM**</u> for another online forum and Q&A. **To submit your questions in advance, [click here](#).**

Special Thanks to our February 11th Telebriefing Guest:

Patrick C. Prieb
Director
San Diego VA Regional Office
Veterans Benefits Administration

County Resources for Military & Veterans

Visit our [County site for Military/Veterans/Families and Serving Organizations](#)

General COVID-19 Frequently Asked Questions – [Click here](#)

Military and Veterans-Specific Frequently Asked Questions – [Click here](#)

Benefit Information & Assistance and Other Professional Services for Military Veterans and Dependents – [Click here](#)

In Case You Missed It…

The San Diego VA Regional Office administers a variety of services to veterans, including compensation, pension and survivors' benefits (C&P), and veterans' readiness and employment (VR&E). Other services provided include outreach services for the homeless, elderly, minority veterans, women veterans, and public affairs. The San Diego VA Regional Office is comprised of various Divisions, to include: Benefits Eligibility Support Team (BEST), Veterans Service Center (VCS), Support Services Division (SSD). Each division provides unique services to better improve the customer experience for Veterans and their dependents across San Diego, Riverside, Imperial, and Orange Counties. In addition, each division is responsible for determining for certain benefits and services provided by Insurance, VR&E, Education, Loan Guaranty, the Veterans Health Administration (VHA), and the National Cemetery Administration (NCA). To learn about additional information on benefits and services offered by the San Diego VA Regional Office, [click here](#). To schedule a virtual appointment with the San Diego VA Regional Office, [click here](#).

Events and Announcements

Courage to Call is hosting a drive-thru feeding and diaper distribution event at 10 a.m. on Saturday, Feb. 13 at 9445 Farnham St., San Diego, 92123. Food is distributed on a first come, first serve basis. No RSVP Required, but please bring your Military/Veteran ID.

SDVC Monthly Meeting active duty military, veteran's and their families are invited to attend the San Diego Veteran's Coalition's next monthly meeting at 8:30 a.m. on Friday, Mar 5. For details, visit sdvetscoalition.org.

Wellness Wednesday is a virtual event hosted by Courage to Call to teach military members, veterans, and their families about wellness topics and helpful resources every Wednesday at 4:00 p.m. To participate in Wellness Wednesday, visit the Courage to Call Facebook page and join through Facebook Live.

North County Veterans Stand Down is a four-day event that enables homeless veterans to receive much-needed services in a safe, friendly, drug-free and secure environment. It will be held at Green Oak Ranch at 1237 Green Oak Road, Vista, CA 92081 from Thursday, April 14 through Sunday, April 18. For details, visit NCStandDown.org.

San Diego VA Regional Office is hosting a virtual VA benefits brief on Monday, Feb. 22 from 10 a.m. to 11 a.m. To join the meeting, click here, or call 1-404-397-1596 and use the meeting password: bqSEJu42V?5. Contact Jennifer Fritzel to be added to the meeting invite at cma.vbasdc@va.gov.

Wastewater Monitoring Piloted as Path to Safe School Reopening

The County of San Diego is working with the University of California, San Diego on a pilot program that may provide a roadmap for schools to safely reopen while our community gets vaccinated.

The Safer at School Early Alert System, or "Sassy" as it is called by participants, is an evidence-based program to detect SARS-CoV-2 at schools and child care centers. The project began with technology launched as part of UC San Diego's Return to Learn program which collects daily wastewater samples that are tested for shed coronavirus.

The three elements of the pilot are using a robot in a sewage outlet to collect daily wastewater samples that are tested at UC San Diego School of Medicine, daily swabbing of floors for virus particles that have settled, and a no-cost PCR testing program.

To read the full *County News Center* story, click here. To learn more about the phased approach for COVID-19 vaccines, click here. To make an appointment for a COVID-19 vaccine, click here.

COVID-19 Vaccination Sites Open in Del Mar, San Marcos

Two new COVID-19 vaccination sites are coming to Del Mar and San Marcos. A vaccination super station will open Feb. 12 at the Del Mar Fairgrounds. The drive-up and walk-up site, operated by Scripps Health, will be open Friday through Sunday and can ramp up to deliver 5,000 doses daily. Appointments are required.

The COVID-19 vaccination site in San Marcos is now immunizing seniors 65 years of age and older, especially those who do not have access to a computer or someone to assist them. When fully operational, the site will be offering about 500 doses daily from 7 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday through Friday. Appointments are required.

To date, more than 703,000 COVID-19 doses have been delivered to the region. Of those, nearly 551,000 have been administered, including more than 95,000 San Diegans who are fully vaccinated and 15.5% of the population over age 16 who have received at least one dose.

To read the full *County News Center* story, click here. For more information about vaccine distribution, visit the County's vaccination dashboard.

Monoclonal Antibody Treatment is Available!

Monoclonal antibodies are made in the lab to prevent the SARS CoV-2 virus from getting into your cells and making you sick with COVID-19. Patients with symptomatic COVID-19 should talk to their primary care provider to see if they are medically eligible for this treatment. Patients *MUST* be referred for treatment by a medical provider.

You may be eligible to receive this treatment if you are:
- A person who is positive for COVID-19 with mild to moderate symptoms, *AND*
- Whose symptoms first appeared within the last 10 days, *AND*
- 12 years of age and older, *AND*
- At high-risk of getting very sick or being admitted to the hospital from COVID-19 based on strict medical criteria.

CA Notify: California's Exposure Notification System

CA Notify is a completely voluntary and secure tool to notify people if they've been exposed to someone with COVID-19.

Here's how it works:
- CA Notify uses Bluetooth technology to exchange random codes with the phones of others who have also opted in.
- You will receive an anonymous alert only if you were in close contact with another CA Notify user who tests positive for COVID-19.

- You can choose to send an anonymous alert to other CA Notify users if you test positive for COVID-19.
- Your privacy is protected. Your identity is not known and your location is not tracked.

How to opt in:
- iPhone users can enable Exposure Notifications directly from Settings:
    - Step 1: Open the Settings app
    - Step 2: Scroll to Exposure Notifications
    - Step 3: Turn on and select United States and California
- Android users can download CA Notify through the Google Play store and follow the prompts to activate.

To learn more about CA Notify, click here. For help activating your phone, call (888) 421-9457 or click here.

COVID-19 Health Equity Pilot Projects

The California Department of Public Health (CDPH) will administer $5M to ~16-30 community-based organizations (CBO) led by and serving communities facing inequities in COVID-19 impacts and infection. CBOs will use the funding for pilot projects to reduce underlying inequities in the social determinants of health that have contributed to disproportionate harm from the Coronavrius among certain communities. To apply for this grant through CDPH, click here.

Small Business Stimulus Grants for San Diego County—Application Open

The Small Business Stimulus Grant Program is funded by Board of Supervisors allocated federal CARES Act funding. The grant funding provides economic assistance to help businesses and nonprofit entities impacted by COVID-19. Financial assistance will be allocated to eligible, qualified small businesses with final award recommendations made by individual district offices based on the availability of funds, program guidelines, and the submission of all required information and supporting documentation. To learn more or apply for the Small Business Stimulus Grant, click here.

The Board of Supervisors Has Expanded COVID-19 Rental Assistance Program

The County of San Diego Emergency Rental Assistance Program provides grants of up to $3,000 to cover rent for eligible households financially impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic. The application is available here in English, Spanish, Arabic, and Tagalog. If

you need assistance with the application in any other languages, please call (858) 694-4801.

Mental Health Resources

Courage To Call. Every day, current and former service members and their families deal with the complex maze of issues that accompanies military life. Often times the most difficult problem is not knowing where to turn when you need help. Courage to Call is a free, confidential, veteran-staffed, 24/7 helpline dedicated to assisting active duty military personnel, veterans, reservists, guard members, and their families, regardless of discharge status. For more information or to chat with a veteran, visit www.courage2call.org, or call 1-877-698-7838, or 2-1-1.

The County's Access and Crisis Line (ACL) is confidential, toll-free, and available 24/7. If you or someone you care about is experiencing a suicidal or mental health crisis, please call 1-888-724-7240.

VA Veteran Suicide Prevention and Crisis Line, 1-800-273-8255 and Press 1 to talk to someone, or Send a text message to 838255 to connect with a VA responder.
The National Suicide Prevention Lifeline, 1-800-273-8255, provides 24/7, free and confidential support for people in distress, and prevention and crisis resources for you or your loved ones.

More resources to help you manage mental health and cope during the COVID-19 pandemic can be found here.

Additional County of San Diego COVID-19 telebriefings are available throughout the week (via Zoom) for a variety of community sectors. For information, updates, and Q&A with other sectors, view the full telebriefing schedule here.

COVID-19 Resources

To request English or Spanish posters for your installation, please e-mail COVID-Military-Veterans@sdcounty.ca.gov with your contact information, drop-off location, and delivery instructions. A member of our Outreach & Education Team will contact you to coordinate delivery and obtain any additional details (if necessary).

Additional resources and materials are available here for your use.

Continue to Stay Informed

County Coronavirus Website

Resources for Military, Veteran's & their Families

Resources & Materials

Testing Information