

NEWS RELEASE Office of Community and Public Affairs

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Pensacola VA Clinic Hosting Drive-Thru Flu Vaccine Clinic Scheduled Tuesdays and Thursdays

PENSACOLA, Fla. – The Gulf Coast Veterans Health Care System's (GCVHCS) Joint Ambulatory Care Center (JACC) in Pensacola, Florida, is hosting a free ongoing Drive-Thru Flu Vaccine Clinic for veterans every Tuesday and Thursday from 9 a.m. through 1 p.m.

The JACC Drive-Thru Flu Vaccine Clinic is scheduled to continue until further notice.

The Drive-Thru Flu Vaccine Clinic is designed to minimize physical contact throughout the influenza immunization process. Veterans will be able to show their Veterans Health Identification Card to Mobile CBOC medical professionals, fill out the appropriate paperwork and receive the proper vaccination.

In the case of inclement weather, Veterans may park and come into the building to receive the flu shot in the Release of Information waiting area. Pneumonia vaccinations will also available.

"These drive-thru clinics can help us continue protecting the Veterans we serve," said Vernon Stewart, GCVHCS Chief of Community and Public Affairs. "By minimizing the time these Veterans are in contact with other individuals at the facility, the chances of airborne disease transmission is lessened, and this convenient and safe method of getting Veterans this necessary vaccination will alleviate waiting times Veterans could experience at in-person clinics."

Research shows that influenza vaccinations have historically prevented individuals from getting sick with the flu and can reduce the risk of hospitalization. Additionally, individuals with health conditions such as diabetes and heart disease are strongly encouraged to get a vaccination.

"Getting vaccinated yourself may also protect people around you, including those who are more vulnerable to serious flu illness, like babies and young children, older people, and people with certain chronic health conditions," said Stewart.

The Gulf Coast Veterans Health Care System has planned Drive-Through Flu Clinics at each of its facilities. Veterans are asked to bring their Veterans Health Identification Card and wear a short sleeve shirt to receive their flu shot.

The GCVHCS' official <u>Facebook page</u> and <u>Twitter feed</u> will be updated with any potential changes to the Biloxi VA Medical Center Drive Thru Flu Clinic.

The Biloxi VA Medical Center, along with the Mobile, Alabama, and Eglin and Panama City, Florida, VA Clinics, and the Joint Ambulatory Care Center (JACC) in Pensacola, Florida, are all part of the GCVHCS, which is headquartered in Biloxi, Mississippi, and provides a variety of medical outpatient services to more than 70,000 Veterans.

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Web: <u>www.biloxi.va.gov</u> Facebook: <u>www.facebook.com/VABiloxi</u> Twitter: <u>http://twitter.com/VABiloxi</u>

Thanks,

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