









#### 4 EASY WAYS TO APPLY FOR VA HEALTH CARE

- 1  **Apply online** at [va.gov/PACT](http://va.gov/PACT)
- 2  **Mail** a completed, signed Application for Health Benefits VA Form 10-10EZ
- 3  **Call** the toll-free hotline 877-222-8387  
Mon - Fri, 8:00 a.m. - 8:00 p.m. ET
- 4  **Bring** a completed, signed VA Form 10-10EZ to the nearest VA Medical Center or clinic.

#### Special Enrollment Period

#### 4 EASY WAYS TO GET STARTED WITH CLAIMS

- 1  **Learn more** at [va.gov/PACT](http://va.gov/PACT)
- 2  **Call the Benefits Hotline** at 1-800-827-1000
- 3  **Visit a VHA Regional Office**
- 4  **Visit a VHA Regional Office**



[va.gov/PACT](http://va.gov/PACT)

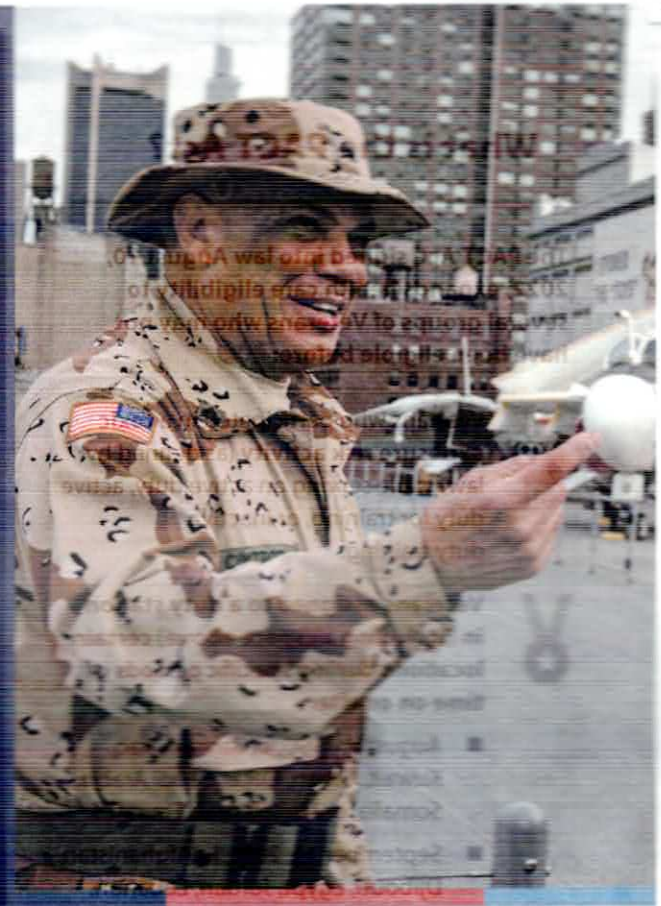


#### Toxic Exposure Screenings

As a general matter, there are several types of possible exposures or hazards Veterans may have experienced during their military service, including:

As of November 8, 2022, every Veteran enrolled for VA health care will receive an initial toxic exposure screening and a follow-up screening at least every five years. Eligible Veterans who have not enrolled in VA health care will have an opportunity to enroll and receive this screening.

Learn more and sign up at [va.gov/PACT](http://va.gov/PACT)  
Call Us at 1-800-MyVA4111 (1-800-698-2411)



# PACT Act

GULF WAR,  
POST-9/11 ERA





## Special Enrollment Period

31

Veterans who served on active duty in a theater of combat operations during a period of war after the Persian Gulf War or in combat against a hostile force during a period of hostilities after November 11, 1998, and who were discharged or released between September 11, 2001, and October 1, 2013, may enroll in VA health care between **October 1, 2022 and October 1, 2023.**



Family members or dependents of a deceased Veteran may qualify for various VA benefits, including additional disability compensation.



## Toxic Exposure Screenings

As a general matter, there are several types of possible exposures or hazards Veterans may have experienced during their military service, including:

- Air Pollutants
- Warfare Agents
- Chemicals
- Occupational Hazards
- Radiation

As of November 8, 2022, every Veteran enrolled for VA health care will receive an initial toxic exposure screening and a follow-up screening at least every five years. Eligible Veterans who have not enrolled in VA health care will have an opportunity to enroll and receive the screening.

If you file a PACT Act benefits claim between now and Aug. 10, 2023, you may receive benefits paid back to Aug. 10, 2022.

## What is the PACT Act?

The PACT Act, signed into law August 10, 2022, expands health care eligibility to several groups of Veterans who may not have been eligible before:

Veterans who participated in a **toxic exposure risk activity** (as defined by law) while serving on active duty, active duty for training, or inactive duty training.

Veterans assigned to a duty station in (including airspace above) certain locations during specific periods of time on or after:

- August 2, 1990, in Bahrain, Iraq, Kuwait, Oman, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, Somalia, or United Arab Emirates
- September 11, 2001, in Afghanistan, Djibouti, Egypt, Jordan, Lebanon, Syria, Uzbekistan, or Yemen, or any other country determined relevant by VA

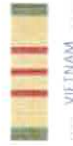
Veterans who deployed in support of:

- Operation Enduring Freedom
- Operation Iraqi Freedom
- Operation Freedom's Sentinel
- Operation New Dawn
- Operation Inherent Resolve
- Resolve Support Mission

The PACT Act also adds 20+ new presumptive conditions.



# PACT ACT FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS



VIETNAM



GULF WAR



POST-9/11

**The PACT Act** is a new law that expands VA health care and benefits for Veterans exposed to burn pits and other toxic substances. This law helps us provide generations of Veterans—and their survivors—with the care and benefits they've earned and deserve.

The Act **(1)** expands and extends eligibility for VA health care for Veterans with toxic exposures and Veterans of the Vietnam era, Gulf War era, and Post-9/11 era, and **(2)** expands eligibility for benefits for Veterans exposed to toxic substances.

## What new or expanded presumptions will the Act create and when will they be in effect?

VETERANS AND SURVIVORS CAN FILE CLAIMS FOR ALL CONDITIONS OUTLINED IN THE PACT ACT IMMEDIATELY.

### For Gulf War and post 9-11 Veterans, that includes:

Brain cancer, Glioblastoma,  
Respiratory (breathing-related) cancer of any type, Gastrointestinal cancer of any type, Head cancer of any type, Lymphoma of any type, any type, Lymphoma of any type, Lymphatic cancer of any type, Blood cancer, Pancreatic cancer, Reproductive cancer of any type, Kidney cancer, Melanoma, Asthma (diagnosed after service), Chronic rhinitis, Chronic sinusitis, Chronic tinea bronchitis or obliterative bronchiolitis.

Emphysema, Granulomatous disease, Interstitial lung disease (ILD), Pleuritis, Pulmonary fibrosis, Sarcoidosis, Chronic bronchitis, Chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD).

### For Vietnam Veterans and other Veterans exposed to tactical herbicides, that includes two Agent Orange presumptive conditions:

Monoclonal gammopathy of undetermined significance (MGUS), High blood pressure (hypertension)

## How can Veterans apply for VA health care?

Apply **online** at [VA.gov/health-care/apply/application/introduction](https://va.gov/health-care/apply/application/introduction).

**Call** our toll-free hotline at 877-222-8387.

M-F, 8:00 a.m. - 8:00 p.m. ET.

**Mail** a completed, signed Application for Health Benefits (VA Form 10-10EZ).

**Bring a completed, signed VA Form 10-10EZ** with you to your nearest medical center or clinic or get help through your state's Department of Veterans Affairs Service Office.

**Get help** filing your claim by working with an accredited representative.

## What are the PACT Act key components?



The Act **expands and extends eligibility for VA health care for Veterans with toxic-exposures** and Veterans of the Vietnam era, Gulf War era, and Post-9/11 era.



VA **will improve the decision-making process** for determining what medical conditions will be considered for presumptive status.



Every enrolled Veteran will **receive an initial toxic exposure screening** and a follow-up screening every five years. Veterans who are not enrolled, but who are eligible to enroll, will have an opportunity to enroll and receive the screening.



VA health care staff and claims processors will receive **toxic exposure-related education and training**.



The Act requires **research studies** on mortality of Veterans who served in Southwest Asia during the Gulf War, Post-9/11 Veteran health trends, and Veteran cancer rates.



The Act will help VA **build a stronger, more skilled workforce** to meet the growing demand for benefits and services.



The Act authorizes **31 new medical facilities** across the country, providing greater access to VA health care.

## How can a Veteran file a claim?



Veterans who would like to file a claim must complete VA Form 21-526EZ to apply for benefits and submit any supportive evidence.



To learn about standard VA disability claims, supplemental claims, secondary claims, and more visit: [VA.gov/disability/how-to-file-claim/when-to-file](https://va.gov/disability/how-to-file-claim/when-to-file).

## If a Veteran was previously denied a claim, what can they do?

VA will contact Veterans when a presumption of service connection is established or changed. However, **Veterans previously denied a toxic-exposure related claim** are encouraged to file a supplemental claim. Once a supplemental claim is received, VA will review the claim under the new law.



VA

U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs

Learn more and sign up at [VA.gov/PACT](https://va.gov/PACT)  
Download the VA Health and Benefits App  
Call us at 1-800-MyVA411 (1-800-698-2411)  
Find a VA at [VA.gov/find-location/](https://va.gov/find-location/)

# FAST FACTS:

## NEW TOXIC EXPOSURE SCREENING FOR VETERANS

If you're enrolled in VA health care, you can now receive the toxic exposure screening at VA medical centers and clinics across the country. If you're not enrolled but meet eligibility requirements to enroll, you will have an opportunity to receive the screening after you enroll.

During your screening, you'll be asked if you believe you experienced toxic exposures during your military service. If you answer yes, you may be connected to support and resources, including a review by your primary care team or provider.



### HERE ARE SOME FAST FACTS TO GET TO KNOW THE PROCESS:

- » It's quick. The screening is a series of questions that takes around 5-10 minutes and can occur as part of a regular health care appointment.
- » It documents a variety of exposures. There are several types of possible exposures or hazards you may have experienced during your military service. This includes open burn pits and airborne hazards, Gulf War-related exposures, Agent Orange, radiation, Camp Lejeune contaminated water exposure, and others.
- » It helps support your long-term care plan. The toxic exposure screening aims to make your VA health care team aware of any potential exposures to toxins during your military service. This allows for ongoing care that ensures early diagnosis and treatment of any health concerns that may arise in the future related to your exposure(s).
- » You'll receive additional information. After your screening, you will also receive information about benefits, registry exams, and clinical resources to address any concerns you may have.
- » You can ask about the toxic exposure screening at your next VA health care appointment. If you don't have an upcoming appointment or want to be screened sooner, contact your local VA facility and ask to be screened by the Toxic Exposure Screening Navigator.
- » You'll be screened at least once every 5 years. Even if you don't have concerns today, you may in the future.
- » You can decline. If you choose not to be screened, you will have the option to decline until the following year.



### THINGS TO KEEP IN MIND:

- » It's not diagnostic. The screening identifies and documents potential exposures. If there is a need, it will support you in connecting with your health care team. You can also always contact your local VA health care team through Secure Message or call 1-800-MyVA411 and press 8.
- » It's not part of the VA benefits claims process. For information about how to file a claim, visit <https://www.va.gov/disability/how-to-file-claim/>.
- » Being screened is separate from joining a VA environmental health registry. You'll receive information about registry participation after your screening.



One of the best ways to manage your health is to proactively develop a long-term health care plan with your care team. The new toxic exposure screening can be an important part of that discussion.



For information about enrolling in VA health care, visit:

<https://www.va.gov/health-care/apply/application/introduction>.

For more information about the screening and toxic exposures, check out these additional resources!

Military Exposures—Public Health

[www.VA.gov/PACI](http://www.VA.gov/PACI)

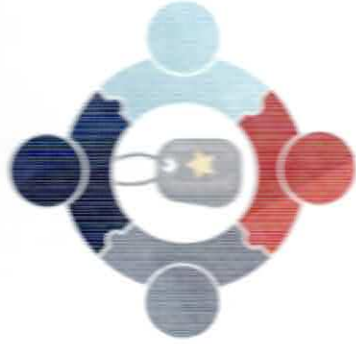


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# VA SURVIVOR BENEFITS & THE PACT ACT

You may be eligible for VA benefits and services after your loved one has passed.



## The PACT Act makes it easier for many survivors to receive Dependency and Indemnity Compensation (DIC).

VA will be contacting survivors who were previously denied DIC benefits and may be newly eligible under the PACT Act. You do not need to wait for VA to contact you to submit a claim.

### How to Apply for DIC and/or Accrued Benefits

Surviving family members may apply for these benefits using the appropriate VA form on [va.gov/family-member-benefits](http://va.gov/family-member-benefits).



#### Dependency and Indemnity Compensation

Monthly payment for the eligible surviving spouse, dependent children or parent(s) of the Veteran or service member if Veteran or service member died in the line of duty or due to a service-related injury or illness.



#### Accrued Benefits

A one-time payment to a surviving spouse, dependent child(ren), or dependent parent(s) of a deceased Veteran based on relationship when the record shows additional benefits (such as VA compensation or pension) due to the Veteran prior to passing.

### Additional Survivor Benefits Available:



#### Burials and Burial Allowance

Burial benefits available include a gravesite in any of our National cemeteries with available space, opening and closing of the grave, perpetual care, a government headstone, marker, or medallion, a burial flag, and a Presidential Memorial Certificate, at no cost. Some survivors may also be eligible for a plot allowance, transportation allowance, and burial allowances based on the service connected disability status of the deceased Veteran.



#### Final Monthly Payment

If a Veteran who is receiving VA compensation or pension benefits passes away, their last month of benefits can be paid to their surviving spouse.



#### Home Loan Guaranty

Certificate of Eligibility is available for surviving spouses receiving DIC.



#### Education and Training

Chapter 35 benefits and Fry Scholarship are the two main GI Bill programs offering educational assistance to survivors and dependents of Veterans who died in the line of duty or as a result of service-related disabilities.



#### Health Care

Survivors and dependents of Veterans may qualify for health care benefits, such as CHAMPVA.

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Learn more and sign up at [VA.gov/PACT](http://VA.gov/PACT)  
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Find a VA at [VA.gov/find-location/](http://VA.gov/find-location/)

# COMPENSATION & PENSION EXAM, TOXIC EXPOSURE SCREENING, AND REGISTRY EXAMS

## WHAT'S THE DIFFERENCE?

With the new toxic exposure screening required by section 603 of the Sergeant First Class Heath Robinson Honoring our Promise to Address Comprehensive Toxics Act of 2022 (the PACT Act), Veterans may have some questions about which exams and screenings they need, when they need them, and what purposes these exams and screenings serve. This comparison chart breaks down some key differences:

EVALUATION TYPE	PURPOSE	DESCRIPTION
 <p><b>Compensation and Pension (C&amp;P) Exam</b></p>	Part of the claim decision process to help determine service connection and rate a disability for purposes of compensation.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Exams administered as part of the VBA claims process but performed by VHA or contracted providers.</li> <li>Enrollment in VA care is not required to receive VA benefits, but the exams may provide a basis for eligibility to enroll in VA care.</li> </ul>
 <p><b>Toxic Exposure Screening</b></p>	Helps identify Veterans with exposure concerns and advises them how to connect with benefits, resources, and services.  Not part of the VA benefits claims process.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>VA must offer the toxic exposure screening to all enrolled Veterans as required by section 603 of the PACT Act.</li> <li>The screening will be repeated at least once every 5 years.</li> <li>Screenings will take 5-10 minutes.</li> <li>If a Veteran has exposure concerns, VA staff will provide them with additional information and resources and advise them on next steps.</li> </ul>
 <p><b>Registry Evaluation</b></p>	Information collected is used for research and quality improvement purposes and is not for clinical care, nor to determine eligibility for health care or benefits.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>VA has six registries: Agent Orange, Airborne Hazards and Open Burn Pits, Depleted Uranium, Gulf War, Ionizing Radiation, and Toxic Embedded Fragments.</li> <li>VA's health registry evaluations are free, voluntary medical assessments for Veterans who may have been exposed to certain environmental hazards during military service.</li> <li>There is no requirement to be enrolled in VA health care or receive other VA benefits to participate in a registry.</li> <li>Exams take approximately 60 minutes and are performed by a VA or military health provider. Veterans can contact the nearest local VA medical facility <a href="#">Environmental Health Coordinator</a> about getting a registry evaluation.</li> </ul>
 <p><b>Million Veteran Program (MVP)</b></p>	Information collected is used for research, not for clinical care or to determine eligibility for health care or benefits. No direct, in-person toxic exposure screening is involved.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>VA will use information to learn how genes, lifestyle, and military experiences and exposures affect health.</li> <li>Participants provide informed consent, a blood sample, and secure access to their health records with MVP.</li> <li>There is no requirement to be enrolled in VA health care to enroll in MVP. Participation is entirely voluntary.</li> <li>Join online at <a href="http://mvp.va.gov">mvp.va.gov</a> or call 866-441-6075 to schedule an appointment.</li> </ul>

For more information visit:

[www.publichealth.va.gov/exposures/](http://www.publichealth.va.gov/exposures/)

[www.VA.gov/PACT](http://www.VA.gov/PACT)

VA



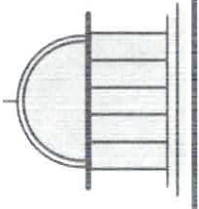
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# BE VIGILANT OF PACT ACT SCAMS

On August 10, President Biden signed the [Sergeant First Class Heath Robinson Honoring our Promise to Address Comprehensive Toxics Act \(PACT Act\)](#) into law. This law helps millions of Veterans and their survivors by:

- Extending VA health care eligibility for Veterans with toxic exposures and Veterans of the Vietnam, Gulf War, and Post 9/11 (Post-September 11, 2001) eras
- Expanding benefits eligibility for Veterans exposed to toxic substances and their survivors



## Tips to Avoid PACT Act Scams

Scammers are taking advantage of new opportunities to commit fraud. There's been an increase in PACT Act-related phishing (email), vishing (phone), and social media scams targeting Veterans to access their PACT Act benefits or submit claims on their behalf.

Veterans should be cautious of anyone who guarantees a lucrative financial benefit or service.

### Do's

- ✓ You may submit your application securely [online](#) via VA.GOV or in person at any Regional Office. You may file your claim directly with VA and then, VA will assist in gathering evidence necessary to support it. There are no costs or hidden fees to apply.
- ✓ Be cautious of companies who advertise VA benefits can only be obtained with their help. These companies may not be recognized by VA and may be attempting to charge illegal fees.
- ✓ Be cautious of aggressive companies who may try to pressure you to sign their contract through frequent communications or by insisting "you must act now or lose your chance for benefits."
- ✓ Be cautious of companies who claim to be contacting you on behalf of VA or to have a special relationship with VA. Contact VA at 1-800-827-1000 if you are unsure about the authenticity of any message received.
- ✓ Validate: if you are interested in working with a Veteran Service Organization (VSO), agent, or attorney, use the Office of General Counsel [Accreditation Tool](#) to confirm and validate their credentials.

### Don'ts

- ✗ Do not sign a contract agreeing to pay an unauthorized company a percentage of your benefit payment in exchange for their assistance with your VA claim. If you need help filing a claim, there are representatives of VSOs, agents, and attorneys who have been [accredited by VA](#) to assist you.
- ✗ Do not sign a blank form for someone else to complete later. Always review the completed form before signing and keep a copy for yourself.
- ✗ Do not be fooled by companies who advertise they have special relationships with medical professionals and can guarantee your benefits award. If they are defrauding the Federal government, you could be held responsible for paying those benefits back.
- ✗ Do not provide your social security number, medical records, or other personally identifiable information to anyone offering claims assistance before confirming their credentials using the Office of General Counsel [Accreditation Tool](#).
- ✗ Do not sign forms that are not [VA generated](#) or third-party authorization for someone to provide "behind-the-scenes" claims assistance.

[www.VA.gov/PACT](http://www.VA.gov/PACT) is the official source of PACT Act information.

We want Veterans and survivors to apply now for their PACT Act-related benefits.

To report suspected scams, please contact the VA Office of Inspector General ([OIG Hotline \(va.gov\)](#)). File a complaint with the [Federal Trade Commission](#). Visit the [Cybercrime Support Network](#) for additional resources to help Veterans, service members, and their families combat cybercrime.



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VA

Learn more and sign up at [VA.gov/PACT](http://VA.gov/PACT)  
Download the [VA Health and Benefits App](#)  
Call us at 1-800-MYVA411 (1-800-698-2411)  
Find a VA at [VA.gov/find/locations/](http://VA.gov/find/locations/)



# 2022 PACT ACT: UNDERSTANDING HEALTH CARE ELIGIBILITY AND BENEFITS



## PACT ACT OVERVIEW

### What is the PACT Act? Why is it important?

The PACT Act is a new law that expands VA health care and benefits for Veterans exposed to toxic substances. **This law helps us provide generations of Veterans—and their survivors—with the care and benefits they've earned and deserve.**

The Act (1) expands and extends eligibility for VA health care for Veterans with toxic exposures and Veterans of the Vietnam era, Gulf War era, and Post-9/11 era, and (2) expands eligibility for benefits for Veterans exposed to toxic substances.

### What does the acronym, PACT, stand for?

Sergeant First Class Health Robinson Honoring Our **P**romise to **A**ddress **C**omprehensive **T**oxics (PACT) Act of 2022

### When does the law go into effect?

While some provisions take effect at different times, VA considers the presumptive conditions established in the PACT Act to be applicable on the date the PACT Act was signed into law (August 10, 2022). **All Veterans and survivors who believe they may be entitled to benefits are encouraged to apply today.**

### What are the PACT Act key components?

- » The Act **expands and extends eligibility for VA health care** for Veterans with toxic-exposures and Veterans of the Vietnam era, Gulf War era, and Post-9/11 era.
- » VA **will improve the decision-making process** for determining what medical conditions will be considered for presumptive status.
- » Every enrolled Veteran will receive an initial **toxic exposure screening** and a follow-up screening at least every five years. Veterans who are not enrolled, but who are eligible to enroll, will have an opportunity to enroll and receive the screening.
- » VA health care staff and claims processors will receive **toxic exposure-related education and training**.
- » The Act requires **research studies** on mortality of Veterans who served in Southwest Asia during the Gulf War, Post-9/11 Veteran health trends, and Veteran cancer rates.
- » The Act will help VA **build a stronger, more skilled workforce** to meet the growing demand for benefits and services.
- » The Act authorizes **31 new facilities** across the country, to provide greater access to VA health care.

### What is Toxic Exposure?

As a general matter, there are several types of possible exposures or hazards Veterans may have experienced during their military service, including:

- » **AIR POLLUTANTS:** Burn pits, oil well fires, sulfur fire, sand, dust, and particulates
- » **CHEMICALS:** Agent Orange or other herbicides, burn pits, Camp Lejeune water supplies, pesticides, depleted uranium, chromium, or industrial solvents
- » **RADIATION:** Nuclear weapons testing, x-rays, or depleted uranium
- » **WARFARE AGENTS:** Chemical warfare agents, nerve agents, mustard gas, herbicide tests, and storage
- » **OCCUPATIONAL HAZARDS:** Asbestos, lead, fuels, industrial solvents, radiation, vibration, noise, special paint on military vehicles, and some coolants or insulating fluids







# 2022 PACT ACT: UNDERSTANDING HEALTH CARE ELIGIBILITY AND BENEFITS



## PACT ACT BENEFITS



### **AUGUST 10, 2022:** PACT Act signed into law.



### **EFFECTIVE NOW:** Adds 20+ new presumptive conditions. Applies to benefits eligibility for Veterans and survivors.

**For Gulf War and Post-9/11 Veterans:** Brain cancer, Glioblastoma, Respiratory (breathing-related) cancer of any type, Gastrointestinal cancer of any type, Head cancer of any type, Lymphoma of any type, Lymphomatous cancer of any type, Neck cancer, Pancreatic cancer, Reproductive cancer of any type, Kidney cancer, Melanoma, Asthma (diagnosed after service), Chronic rhinitis, Chronic sinusitis, Constrictive bronchiolitis or obliterative bronchiolitis, Emphysema, Granulomatous disease, Interstitial lung disease (ILD), Pleuritis, Pulmonary fibrosis, Sarcoidosis, Chronic bronchitis, Chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD).

**For Vietnam Veterans and other Veterans exposed to tactical herbicides, that includes two Agent Orange presumptive conditions:** Monoclonal gammopathy of undetermined significance (MGUS), High blood pressure (hypertension).



### **JANUARY 1, 2023:** VBA will begin processing claims.

### **What is a presumption of service connection?**

VA assumes certain diseases or illnesses can be related to a Veteran's military service. **Veterans and their survivors may be eligible for benefits and health care services** for these conditions.

### **What new or expanded presumptions will the Act create and when will they be in effect?**

Veterans and survivors can file claims for all conditions outlined in the PACT Act immediately.

### **For Gulf War and Post-9/11 Veterans, that includes:**

Brain cancer, Glioblastoma, Respiratory (breathing-related) cancer of any type, Gastrointestinal cancer of any type, Head cancer of any type, Lymphoma of any type, Lymphomatous cancer of any type, Neck cancer, Pancreatic cancer, Reproductive cancer of any type, Kidney cancer, Melanoma, Asthma that was diagnosed after service, Chronic rhinitis, Chronic sinusitis, Constrictive bronchiolitis or obliterative bronchiolitis, Emphysema, Granulomatous disease, Interstitial lung disease (ILD), Pleuritis, Pulmonary fibrosis, Sarcoidosis, Chronic bronchitis, Chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD).

### **For Vietnam Veterans and other Veterans exposed to tactical herbicides, that includes two Agent Orange presumptive conditions:**

Monoclonal gammopathy of undetermined significance (MGUS), High blood pressure (also called hypertension).

### **Can Veterans apply now?**

VA is considering the presumptive conditions established in the PACT Act to be applicable on the date the bill becomes law. **We encourage all Veterans who believe they may be entitled to benefits to apply now.**

### **What evidence must Veterans submit when filing a claim?**

Veterans should submit any supportive evidence along with their claims. The PACT Act states that in processing claims for compensation related to toxic exposure, VA may consider any **Veteran record in an exposure tracking record system**. If no record exists, VA may consider the totality of circumstances. Claims processors can also assist Veterans filing a claim by gathering any identified medical evidence and requesting an examination or medical opinion to substantiate the claim.

Veterans now eligible for benefits based on a presumption of service connection are encouraged to file a claim using **VA Form 21-526EZ**, Application for Disability Compensation and Related Compensation Benefits, or a supplemental claim using **VA Form 20-0995**, Decision Review Request: Supplemental Claim.

### **If a Veteran was previously denied a claim for any of these conditions, what can they do?**

VA will contact Veterans when a presumption of service connection is established or changed. However, Veterans previously denied a toxic-exposure related claim are encouraged to file a supplemental claim. **Once a supplemental claim is received, VA will review the claim under the new law.**

### **What actions should Veterans take who have never filed a claim for one of these conditions?**

Veterans who are diagnosed with one of the new presumptive conditions and meet eligibility requirements should **submit a new claim** for consideration using **VA Form 21-526EZ**, Application for Disability Compensation and Related Compensation Benefits.

### **How can a Veteran file a disability claim?**



**Learn more at** [VA.gov/disability/how-to-file-claim/](https://www.va.gov/disability/how-to-file-claim/)



**Call the Benefits hotline (for specific questions)** at 1-800-827-1000



**Visit a VBA Regional Office** at [VA.gov/locations/](https://www.va.gov/locations/)



**Work with an accredited VBA** at [VA.gov/locations/](https://www.va.gov/locations/)



# 2022 PACT ACT: UNDERSTANDING HEALTH CARE ELIGIBILITY AND BENEFITS



## PACT ACT BENEFITS

**Will family members or dependents—those who lost a loved one during the re-adjudication process or those who lost a loved one who was previously denied a claim—receive any benefits because of the PACT Act?**

Family members or dependents of a deceased Veteran **may qualify for various VA benefits** due to the additional disabilities defined in the PACT Act if they meet eligibility requirements. Benefits available include Dependency and Indemnity Compensation (DIC), Accrued, and Burial benefits.

» **DIC** is a monthly payment for the eligible surviving spouse, dependent child(ren) or parent(s) of a deceased Veteran who died in the line of duty or from a service-connected disability or disabilities. Evidence must show the Veteran's death was caused by, or related to, the Veteran's time in service. Survivors who wish to file a claim must complete [VA Form 21P-534EZ](#) to apply for benefits, and submit any supportive evidence.

» **Accrued benefits** are one-time payments to an eligible surviving spouse, dependent child(ren) or dependent parent(s) of a deceased Veteran based on the relationship when the evidence

of record shows benefits, such as disability compensation or Veterans pension, were due but unpaid prior to the Veteran's passing. A family member of the deceased Veteran may also qualify by providing evidence of payment for the Veteran's final expenses or burial. Survivors who wish to file a claim must complete [VA Form 21P-534EZ](#) OR [VA Form 21P-601](#) to apply for benefits and submit any supportive evidence.

» **Burial benefits** are a flat-rate payment to assist in covering eligible Veteran burial in a national cemetery and funeral costs. VA may provide burial benefits to a family member or dependent of a deceased Veteran who met the qualifications at the time of their passing. VA pays service-connected burial, non-service-connected burial, plot or interment allowance, and transportation reimbursement. Individuals who wish to file a claim must complete [VA Form 21P-530EZ](#) to apply for benefits and submit any supportive evidence.

» **Health care through the Civilian Health and Medical Program of the Department of Veterans Affairs (CHAMPVA)** may also be available for survivors and dependents of Veterans who are now, or who would have been, eligible for a service-connected disability.





# 2022 PACT ACT: UNDERSTANDING HEALTH CARE ELIGIBILITY AND BENEFITS



## PACT ACT HEALTH CARE ELIGIBILITY

### What are the new health care eligibility criteria?

The PACT Act helps advance a top VA priority: getting more Veterans into VA care by expanding eligibility for, and the availability of, health care services for Veterans. The law **expands health care eligibility** to several groups of Veterans who may not have been eligible before and requires VA to **phase in hospital care, medical services, and nursing home care for any illness to three new categories** of Veterans.

» **CATEGORY 1:** Veterans who participated in a toxic exposure risk activity (as defined by law) while serving on active duty, active duty for training, or inactive duty training.

» **CATEGORY 2:** Veterans who were assigned to a duty station in (including airspace above) certain locations during specific periods of time:

- On or after August 2, 1990, in: Bahrain, Iraq, Kuwait, Oman, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, Somalia, or the United Arab Emirates
- On or after September 11, 2001, in: Afghanistan, Djibouti, Egypt, Jordan, Lebanon, Syria, Yemen, Uzbekistan, or any other country determined relevant by VA.

» **CATEGORY 3:** Veterans who deployed in support of Operation Enduring Freedom, Operation Freedom's Sentinel, Operation Iraqi Freedom, Operation New Dawn, Operation Inherent Resolve, or Resolute Support Mission.

» **EFFECTIVE ON ENACTMENT (AUGUST 10, 2022):**

Veterans who served in the **Republic of Vietnam** (from 1/9/62–5/7/75), **Thailand** at any US or Royal Thai base (from 1/9/62–6/30/76), **Laos** (from 12/1/65–9/30/69), certain provinces in **Cambodia** (from 4/16/69–4/30/69), **Guam**, or **American Samoa** or their territorial waters (from 1/9/62–7/31/80), or the **Johnston Atoll** or a ship that called there (from 1/1/72–9/30/77) may enroll in VA health care.

» **BETWEEN OCTOBER 1, 2022, AND OCTOBER 1, 2023:**

Veterans who served on active duty in a theater of combat operations during a period of war **after the Persian Gulf War** or in combat against a hostile force during a period of hostilities after November 11, 1998, and who were discharged or released between September 11, 2001, and October 1, 2013, may enroll in VA health care. Enrollment is free, there are no annual costs, and care may be free as well.

## PACT ACT ELIGIBILITY KEY DATES



**AUGUST 10, 2022:**  
PACT Act signed into law.



**ON ENACTMENT (AUGUST 10, 2022):**

Veterans who served in the Republic of Vietnam, Thailand, Laos, certain provinces in Cambodia, Guam, or American Samoa (or their territorial waters), or the Johnston Atoll (or a ship that called there) during specific time periods may enroll in VA health care.



**OCTOBER 1, 2022 - OCTOBER 1, 2023:**

Veterans who served on active duty in a theater of combat operations during a period of war after the Persian Gulf War or in combat against a hostile force during a period of hostilities after 11/11/98, and who were discharged or released between 9/11/01–10/1/13 may enroll in VA health care.



**NOVEMBER 8, 2022:**

Begin incorporating toxic exposure screening for enrolled Veterans.



**OCTOBER 1, 2024:**

Phase in enrollment for health care for Veterans identified in Categories 1 and 2 who were discharged or released August 2, 1990 - September 11, 2001.



**OCTOBER 1, 2026:**

Phase in enrollment for health care for Veterans identified in Categories 1 and 2 who were discharged or released September 12, 2001 - December 31, 2006.



**OCTOBER 1, 2028:**

Phase in enrollment for health care for Veterans identified in Categories 1 and 2 who were discharged or released January 1, 2007 - December 31, 2012.



**OCTOBER 1, 2030:**

Phase in enrollment for health care for Veterans identified in Categories 1 and 2 who were discharged or released January 1, 2013 - December 31, 2018.



**OCTOBER 1, 2032:**

Phase in enrollment for health care for Veterans identified in Category 3.



# 2022 PACT ACT: UNDERSTANDING HEALTH CARE ELIGIBILITY AND BENEFITS



## PACT ACT HEALTH CARE ELIGIBILITY

### What is a toxic exposure screening? How will it help Veterans?

Veterans will be **asked questions about potential exposure** to an open burn pit or other hazards commonly associated with military environmental exposure. This will help VA identify other potential risks for Veterans and inform future policy decisions.

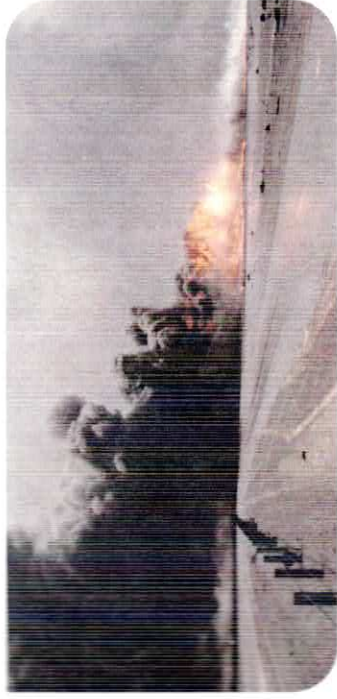
### How will a Gulf War or Post-9/11 Combat Veteran's eligibility be impacted?

The PACT Act extends and expands VA health care eligibility.

**All Veterans are encouraged to apply for VA health care, regardless of separation date.** VA health care eligibility depends on service history and other factors.

Veterans who served on active duty in a theater of combat operations during a period of war after the Persian Gulf War or in combat against a hostile force during a period of hostilities after November 11, 1998, and who were discharged or released:

- Between September 11, 2001, and October 1, 2013, will have a special enrollment period between October 1, 2022, and October 1, 2023 (if not previously enrolled in VA health care). During this one-year period, Veterans will have another opportunity to apply for enrollment. We strongly encourage them to do so to ensure health care is available now and in the future. Enrollment is free; there are no annual costs, and care may be free as well.
- After October 1, 2013, are eligible to enroll in VA health care during the 10-year period from the most recent discharge or separation date.



### What is the Burn Pit Registry? How can a Veteran register?

The VA Airborne Hazards and Open Burn Pit Registry aims to help VA **better understand potential health effects of exposures** and proactively identify health concerns Veterans can discuss with their health care providers for follow-up care.

Veterans deployed to **Southwest Asia or Egypt** after August 2, 1990, or **Afghanistan, Djibouti, Syria, or Uzbekistan** on or after September 11, 2001, are eligible to [participate in the registry](#).

Participation is voluntary and **cannot negatively impact VA health care access or compensation and benefits claims**. Exposure to specific airborne hazards or having related health concerns is not required to participate in the registry.

### How can a Veteran apply for VA health care?



Apply online at

[VA.gov/health-care/apply/application/introduction](https://va.gov/health-care/apply/application/introduction)



Call the toll-free hotline at 877-222-8387

Monday – Friday, 8:00 a.m. – 8:00 p.m. ET



Mail a completed, signed Application for Health Benefits [VA Form 10-10EZ](#).



Bring a completed, signed VA Form 10-10EZ to the nearest VA Medical Center or clinic.



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Learn more and sign up at [VA.gov](https://va.gov)  
Download the VA Health and Benefits App  
Call us at 1-800-MyVA11 (1-800-698-2411)  
Find a VA at [VA.gov/find-locations](https://va.gov/find-locations)