

RAO Closures---- Dec 23 @12:00 noon.

- Dec 26-- Special non working day
- Dec 30-- Rizal Day
- Jan 2---- Special non working day

Membership dues-- 2023 Dues renewal will be P5000. Early renewal during the month of Dec is P4700. Please be advised a 15 day grace period will be observed until 15 Jan. After that date, unrenewed FPO boxes will be closed and mail returned to sender. Should a member chose to renew after that date, a new box number may be assigned.

VA announcement concerning Covid Vaccinations;

### COVID-19 Vaccine Updated Booster Shots

Manila VA Outpatient Clinic will offer updated COVID-19 boosters to service-connected Veterans who have completed a COVID-19 vaccine primary series. The updated booster protects against both the original virus that causes COVID-19 as well as the BA.4 and BA.5 Omicron subvariants. The boosters previously available only contained protection against the original virus strain. Receiving an updated booster will ensure that you are up to date with COVID-19 vaccines. Staying up to date ensures that you have protection against severe illness and death from COVID-19. Saturday vaccine clinic appointments are available on Dec 10 and Dec 17 between 8:30 am – 3:00 pm.

Call us on December 3rd between 8 am – 1 pm or Dec 4th 8 am - 1 pm to schedule your appointment.

Am I eligible to receive the Covid-19 bivalent vaccine at the clinic? You need to be able to check ALL of these boxes.

I have a rated service-connected disability. I am included in one of the categories below.

- Veteran with rated service-connected disability who is enrolled at the Manila VA Clinic or
- Veteran with rated service-connected disability who is not enrolled, but received a Covid-19 vaccination at the Manila VA OPC or
- Veteran with rated service-connected disability enrolled in the U.S. or eligible to be registered or enrolled at the clinic.

I have received the Covid-19 vaccine primary series.

- Individuals who have completed a primary series, including those who have received booster doses, and whose last shot was at least 2 months ago are eligible for the updated booster.
- A primary series consists of 2 doses of Pfizer-BioNTech vaccine, 2 doses of Moderna vaccine, 2 doses of Novavax vaccine, 2 doses of Sinovac, 2 doses of Sinopharm and 2 doses of AstraZeneca or 1 dose of Johnson & Johnson's Janssen vaccine.

I have not had Covid-19 in the past 3 months. .

- If you have had Covid-19 infection within the past three months and want to get the vaccine, please consult with your doctor.

I have not had any Covid-19 vaccination in the past two months.

I did not have a severe allergic reaction to any previous Covid-19 vaccination.

For more information on the Covid-19 Bivalent vaccine, see attached FAQs.

How to schedule a vaccine appointment?

Call the VA Manila Outpatient Clinic on December 3rd between 8- 1pm or Dec 4th 8- 1 pm.

- If using a landline and in Metro Manila, dial 8550-3888 and then press 2 for Outpatient Clinic, then 5 for COVID appointment.

- If using a landline and outside Metro Manila, dial 1 (800) 1888-5252 and then press 2 for Outpatient Clinic, then 5 for COVID appointment.

- If using a cellular phone, dial #6982 (or #MyVA) and then press 2 for Outpatient Clinic, then 5 for COVID appointment.

Send a secure message to the your team.

- Put "Schedule booster" in the title.

- Propose a date and time. If an appointment is available within one hour of your proposed time, we will schedule and inform you of the time by secure message. Otherwise we will call you to schedule the appointment. Include the best contact number in the secure message.

What do I need to know when I come to my appointment?

- Bring your vaccination card

- Cancel your appointment if you have Covid-19 symptoms. Don't come to the clinic.

- Report 15 mins before covid vaccine appointment.

- You are required to wear a mask covering your mouth and nose at all times while at the clinic.

- Bring two pieces of identification. Veteran's Identification Card and another US government issued picture identification card. One ID will be given to the guard and you will be given a temporary badge to enter the clinic.

- Travel to the clinic will not be reimbursed.

- Parking is not available in front of US Veterans Affairs Outpatient Clinic.

- Inform/notify VA Manila OPC if you can't keep your appointment.

The RAO will consider renting vans as before if there are enough persons requesting transportation. Please notify us ASAP!