Paralyzed Veterans of America’s members with spinal cord injury and disorders, such as MS and ALS, have unique health challenges and ongoing concerns that are often unmet during this time of isolation. During the week of April 8-13, PVA conducted a second survey with 850 member respondents that revealed the impact COVID-19 is having on their health and their ability to access care. Nearly 80% of all respondents stated that they receive at least some of their care from VA’s Spinal Cord Injury and Disorder System of Care (SCI/D). Of these veterans, 48% receive their care from a VA SCI/D Hub. Within the last month, 53% have been contacted by their SCI/D care team.

PVA has developed a Checklist Planning Guide to help veterans meet emergent caregiving needs. We also encourage members to upgrade their My HealtheVet accounts as soon as possible, and to use them to connect with their providers to secure refills of supplies and medications, as well as addressing other needs.

We are committed to the health and well-being of our members, caregivers, staff, community and all veterans. We are continuing to monitor how the virus is impacting our members, by closely working with VA and Capitol Hill to address the crucial needs of paralyzed veterans who need specialized care.

In addition, a common concern of respondents was the desire for testing for COVID-19 and antibodies. Because the spinal cord injury and disease (SCI/D) population is one of VA’s most susceptible populations to the novel corona virus, care is being moved to virtual assistance where possible. As such, PVA is monitoring the experience of our members in this area to-date.

PVA has developed a Checklist Planning Guide to help veterans meet emergent caregiving needs. We also encourage members to upgrade their My HealtheVet accounts as soon as possible, and to use them to connect with their providers to secure refills of supplies and medications, as well as addressing other needs.

We are committed to the health and well-being of our members, caregivers, staff, community and all veterans. We are continuing to monitor how the virus is impacting our members, by closely working with VA and Capitol Hill to address the crucial needs of paralyzed veterans who need specialized care.