



# Paralyzed Veterans of America

## IMPACT OF COVID-19: 3RD MEMBER SURVEY

Paralyzed Veterans of America continues to monitor the impact COVID-19 is having on our members, who are veterans with spinal cord injury and disorders, such as MS and ALS. They have unique health challenges and ongoing concerns that are often unmet during this time of isolation.

Between May 4-14, PVA conducted a third survey. Over 500 respondents revealed the impact COVID-19 is having on their health, finances, and their lifestyles as some communities begin lifting stay at home orders.



**91%** have neither been diagnosed with, nor tested for, COVID-19

**9** respondents said they had been diagnosed with COVID-19 } **4** confirmed by testing



**65%** were contacted by VA health care provider about their well-being

**50%** have received outreach from the VA's SCI/D system of care

### Top Concerns:



**57.5%** ability to go to VA or community health care provider



**55%** rescheduling of routine appointments



**53.3%** exposure to virus if they go out for care



**53.2%** ability to resume normal community activities



**50.4%** access to masks and gloves in order to safely go out



**39.8%** obtaining testing

*As many parts of the country begin to open up, respondents said they would continue to be cautious about resuming normal activities:*



**61%** would go to restaurants



**60%** would go to grocery stores



**27.9%** would stay in a hotel or timeshare



**26%** would travel by bus, train, or airplane



**28%** don't plan to resume normal activities at this time

*Respondents indicated the preventative measures they intend to take:*



**82.6%** will continue social distancing



**82%** will wash their hands



**75%** will wear masks or gloves



**26%** intend to remain at home

### Financial Impact:



**18%** suffered job loss or layoff in household



**66%** have received their stimulus check

PVA has developed a [Checklist Planning Guide](#) to help veterans meet emergent caregiving needs. We also encourage members to upgrade their [My HealthVet](#) 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.

## SUPPORT HOTLINES

**PVA National Office**  
PVA members can contact PVA National at 1-800-424-8200 to be connected directly with a staff member who can specifically address benefits or health care issues or needs.

**White House/ VA Hotline**  
Get 24/7 help! Call 1-855-948-2311. Calls are answered by a live agent 24 hours a day, seven days a week, 365 days a year.

**MISSION Act and COVID Questions**  
Contact MyVA 311 at 1-844-MyVA311. For general COVID-19 info or info for MISSION ACT.

