DMVA Safeguards Health Of Residents By Restricting Visitation At Its Six Veterans Homes Across The Commonwealth:
The Pennsylvania Department of Military and Veterans Affairs (DMVA) is taking extra precaution to safeguard the health of its residents and staff against COVID-19 by restricting visitors to its six veterans homes for the foreseeable future. The only exceptions will be in compassionate cases, when a resident’s health becomes severely critical. In those cases, visitors will be subjected to a brief health assessment and will only have access to their specific resident’s room. [Website](#).

Amputee And Paralyzed Veterans Pension/Blind Veterans Pension/Educational Gratuity Program:
DMVA's Office of Veterans Affairs (OVA) will continue to process claims as they are received. We currently anticipate no delay in April payments. For more information on the Amputee and Paralyzed Veterans Pension visit [Website](#). For more information on the Blind Veterans Pension visit [Website](#). For more information on the Educational Gratuity program visit [Website](#).
Veterans Temporary Assistance/Military Family Relief Assistance Program:
The Department of Military and Veterans Affairs' (DMVA) Office of Veterans Affairs (OVA) continues to process applications for Veterans Temporary Assistance and the Military Family Relief Assistance Program. Applications are initiated with the county director for veterans affairs (CDVA). However, if the CDVA staff members are not available due to county office closure, the veteran may contact DMVA OVA directly at 800-547-2838 or by email Ra-vta@pa.gov. Applications for these programs are our priority. For more information on Veterans Temporary Assistance visit Website. For more information on the Military Family Relief Assistance Program visit Website.

Tax Time Offers Opportunity To Help Pennsylvania’s Military Families Facing Financial Crisis:
Individuals filing their 2019 Pennsylvania personal income taxes can help Pennsylvania’s military personnel and their families by donating part or all of their refund to the state’s Military Family Relief Assistance Program (MFRAP). The program, administered by the Pennsylvania Department of Military and Veterans Affairs (DMVA), provides grants of up to $3,500 to Pennsylvania members of the armed forces and their families who have a direct and immediate financial need as a result of circumstances beyond their control. The tax form includes instructions on how to donate. Website.

Around the State

Gov. Wolf, Sec. of Health: Pennsylvania on Statewide Stay-at-Home Order Beginning at 8 PM Tonight, “Most Prudent Option to Stop the Spread”: 
Governor Tom Wolf and Secretary of Health Dr. Rachel Levine announced all 67 Pennsylvania counties will be under stay-at-home orders effective, Wednesday, April 1, at 8 p.m. “This is the most prudent option to stop the spread of COVID-19 across our commonwealth, where cases continue to grow daily,” Gov. Wolf said. Website.

Governor Wolf - Request For Major Disaster Declaration Approved:
Governor Tom Wolf announced the approval of part of his request to the president for a major disaster declaration to support state, county and local response to the COVID-19 outbreak in Pennsylvania. “We are grateful for federal funding that will support all levels of government as we work together to stop the spread, and support those who care for the ill,” said Governor Wolf. “But I remain unwavering in my call for the approval of the rest of my request, which will provide more direct support to our friends and neighbors who are facing financial difficulties that otherwise could be insurmountable.” Website.

Lebanon VA Medical Center Limits Services At Its Five VA Community Clinics Due To COVID-19 Pandemic:
Lebanon VA Medical Center has announced that its five VA Community Clinics located in Wyomissing, Mechanicsburg, Lancaster, Pottsville and York are limiting services to protect the safety of veterans and employees during the COVID-19 pandemic. Website.

Glen Mills Schools To Become Federal Medical Station:
Members of the 103rd Engineer Battalion, Pennsylvania Army National Guard, set up beds and other supplies as they turned the closed Glen Mills Schools in Delaware County into a field hospital on Saturday, March 28, 2020. The site can house patients from
other hospitals, clearing space for an anticipated surge of COVID-19 patients. Website.

Medical Reserve Corps (MRC) Begin Doing Wellness Checks:
The South Central Task Force which covers Adams, Cumberland, Dauphin, Franklin, Lancaster, Lebanon, Perry and York counties is planning to have their Medical Reserve Corps (MRC) begin doing wellness checks. If your agency is in a position to identify people in these counties who would benefit from a wellness check, please contact MRC Commander Joe Cocciardi jcocciardi@cocciardi.com Website

Information For Pennsylvania Employees Impacted By COVID-19:
If you are employed in Pennsylvania and are unable to work because of coronavirus disease (COVID-19), you may be eligible for unemployment or workers' compensation benefits. The Department of Labor & Industry will continue to provide important employment benefit updates as the situation evolves. For more information visit Website.

AlertPA:
All Pennsylvania residents are encouraged to sign up for AlertPA, a text notification system for health, weather, and other important alerts like COVID-19 updates from commonwealth agencies. Residents can sign up online at Website.

Across the Nation

How To Protect Yourself From Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19):
Wash your hands often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds especially after you have been in a public place, or after
blowing your nose, coughing, or sneezing. If soap and water are not readily available, use a hand sanitizer that contains at least 60 percent alcohol. Cover all surfaces of your hands and rub them together until they feel dry. Avoid touching your eyes, nose, and mouth with unwashed hands. Avoid close contact with people who are sick. Put distance between yourself and other people if COVID-19 is spreading in your community. This is especially important for people who are at higher risk of getting very sick. Website.

**Coronavirus Disease (COVID-19) Symptoms:**
Reported illnesses have ranged from mild symptoms to severe illness and death for confirmed coronavirus disease (COVID-19) cases. These symptoms may appear two-14 days after exposure (based on the incubation period of MERS-CoV viruses). Fever at or above 100.4 degrees Fahrenheit and respiratory symptoms such as cough or shortness of breath. If you develop emergency warning signs for COVID-19 get medical attention immediately. Emergency warning signs include: trouble breathing, persistent pain or pressure in the chest, new confusion or inability to arouse, bluish lips or face. Please consult your medical provider for any other symptoms that are severe or concerning. Website.

**Gastrointestinal Symptoms May Be Overlooked In Coronavirus Cases:**
Gastrointestinal symptoms, which had not been considered primary clinical features of novel coronavirus, were observed in the first U.S. case of the illness, researchers found. Coronavirus RNA was detected in the patient’s stool sample on day seven after illness, and the patient’s clinical symptoms included a two-day history of nausea and vomiting prior to admission, according to Michelle Holshue, MPH, of the CDC in Atlanta, and colleagues. A portion of COVID-19 patients have experienced diarrhea, nausea, vomiting and/or abdominal discomfort before respiratory symptoms emerge. Researchers suggested that clinicians monitor
patients with gastrointestinal distress, because this early-stage monitoring could allow for earlier detection, diagnosis, isolation and intervention. Another study showed the virus had been found in the stool of patients with COVID-19, and that the virus had even been found in the stool after it cleared the respiratory tract. Researchers urged clinicians to be mindful of potential fecal-oral transmission.  

**Circular 26-20-10, Lender Guidance For Borrowers Affected By COVID-19:**
On March 13, 2020, the President of the United States declared a National Emergency due to coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19). This Circular provides guidance for Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) home loan borrowers affected by COVID-19 and describes temporary measures regarding loan origination, closing, and guaranty.  

**Circular 26-20-11: Valuation Practices During COVID-19:**
On March 13, 2020, the President of the United States declared a National Emergency due to coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19). Loan Guaranty (LGY) is committed to protecting veterans, appraisers and industry stakeholders while continuing to execute our mission of delivering VA home loan benefits. The potential risks associated with the COVID-19 provides unique challenges in the appraisal process as VA fee panel appraisers may be required to access the interior of homes.

**KidsPeace Response To Coronavirus (COVID-19):**
The coronavirus outbreak can affect your kids’ mental and emotional health. Anxiety, depression and behavioral issues all can be consequences of the struggles children and teens are having as they cope with the uncertainty surrounding the public health emergency. KidsPeace has helped kids and families navigate mental health issues for more than 100 years.
KidsPeace offers not only direct mental health care services, but tools for the general public to address the potential toll of the coronavirus outbreak on our children’s wellbeing. [Website.](#)

**Blue Water Navy Veterans Received $140M In Retroactive Benefits:**
Blue Water Navy veterans and survivors who filed compensation claims in January and February 2020 have so far received over $140 million in retroactive benefits. These figures show the latest results from VA directly acting upon the Blue Water Navy Vietnam Veteran Act of 2019 that went into effect on Jan. 1, 2020. The BWN Act extends the presumption of herbicide exposure, such as Agent Orange, to veterans who served in the offshore waters of the Republic of Vietnam between Jan. 9, 1962, and May 7, 1975, as well as veterans who served in the Korean Demilitarized Zone between Sept. 1, 1967, and Aug. 31, 1971. [Website.](#)

**Vocational Rehabilitation And Employment (VR&E) Program Has Centralized Receipt Of Paper Mail Nationwide:**
Veterans enrolled in the Vocational Rehabilitation and Employment (VR&E) Program, based on the current COVID-19 national impact, VR&E communications have shifted to digital service delivery. In order to maintain the flow of communication, we are implementing centralized receipt of paper mail nationwide. [Website.](#)

**Retreat Behavioral Health Accepting Patients At All Levels Of Care:**
Retreat is dedicated to supporting our community, especially during this difficult time. We understand the loss of behavioral health care can be detrimental to our society, with no place for people to receive the treatment they need. Retreat Behavioral Health continue to accept patients while taking added precautions to ensure the health and safety of our staff and clients. [Website.](#)
New Procedures For Floral Arrangements At VA National Cemeteries Due To COVID-19:
Effective Monday, March 30, 2020, as part of the National Cemetery Administration’s on-going effort to minimize the spread of COVID-19 and protect the health and safety of our employees conducting interments, NCA national cemeteries will not accept floral arrangements with direct interments. Families that wish to place a floral arrangement(s) (limit 2) may do so after 4:30 p.m. on the day of interment or any time thereafter. This change will be in effect until further notice. Website.

Trump Issues Order To Bring Veterans Back To Active Duty To Assist In Coronavirus Response:
President Donald Trump issued an order that permits the Pentagon to bring back to active duty some veterans and Reserve members of the military to augment forces already involved in the response to the coronavirus pandemic, senior U.S. officials said. The president said that the decision will “allow us to mobilize medical, disaster and emergency response personnel to help wage our battle against the virus by activating thousands of experienced service members, including retirees.” Website

**Employment Opportunities**

This listing is offered as a resource to both Pennsylvania's veterans and businesses that seek to employ veterans. The DMVA has not investigated the positions being offered or the businesses listed, and does not warrant or guarantee either the availability or the terms and conditions of the positions listed. Please contact the employers represented in this listing directly. To have an employment opportunity listed please email: RA-VA-Newsletter@pa.gov
DMVA Is Hiring:
WE'RE HIRING! The needs of Pennsylvania’s veterans do not diminish during this time, and DMVA needs staff to serve and care for our veterans at each of our six veterans homes. Working at one of our homes is a rewarding career with great benefits. The Pennsylvania Department of Military and Veterans Affairs has immediate job openings for: certified nurse aides; licensed practical nurses; registered nurses; registered nurse supervisors; registered PRN nurses; custodial workers and food service workers. Apply online at Read more.

Amazon Seeks To Hire 100,000 To Keep Up With Surge In Orders:
Amazon said that it needs to hire 100,000 people across the U.S. to keep up with a crush of orders as the coronavirus spreads and keeps more people at home, shopping online. The online retailer said it will also temporarily raise pay by $2 an hour through the end of April for hourly employees. That includes workers at its warehouses, delivery centers and Whole Foods grocery stores, all of whom make at least $15 an hour. Employees in the United Kingdom and other European countries will get a similar raise. Website.

Giant Hiring Temporary And Part Time Team Members:
Giant is hiring to keep up with immediate need for service associates, cashiers, general stock clerks, drivers, and fulfillment center selectors due to the demands as the coronavirus spreads. To apply visit Website.

“Pay For Success” Helps Veterans With PTSD Find And Keep Meaningful Jobs:
The transition to civilian life can be difficult for many veterans. It’s even more challenging for those with PTSD. More than 60 percent of veterans entering specialized PTSD programs are unemployed, which can negatively impact financial security,
community reintegration and quality of life. But thanks to an innovative “pay-for-success” program, 100 veterans with PTSD have now found meaningful employment in New York City, Boston and Central Western Massachusetts. The renewed status and sense of identity that comes with being employed and making meaningful contributions at home and in society can reduce the stigma of disability–and lower symptoms of PTSD. Website.

**Under 21 Military Commercial Driver’s License (CDL) Pilot Program:**
This three-year pilot program will study the feasibility, benefits, and safety impacts of allowing 18, 19, and 20-year-olds with military driving experience to operate commercial motor vehicles (CMVs) in interstate commerce. The program will compare driver safety records from the covered group to records from a control group of drivers 21-24 who have commercial driver’s licenses and comparable training and experience. For more information visit Website.

**Hiring – The U.S. Census Bureau 2020:**
- Various positions throughout PA and across the nation
- All the candidates interested will need to apply online in order to be considered for the position.
- The U.S. Census Bureau is recruiting to fill hundreds of thousands of temporary positions across the country to assist with the 2020 Census count.
- For more information and to apply visit Website.

**Veteran Events**

This listing is offered as a service to individuals and organizations to promote their veteran and military-oriented events being held in Pennsylvania. The information is taken directly from emailed submissions from requestors. DMVA is not responsible for incorrect information submitted. Please send details on events
to RA-VA-Newsletter@pa.gov and include the following key pieces of information: 1. Name of event, 2. Date of event, 3. Time of event, 4. Address of event, 5. County of event, 6. Event website, 7. Point of contact name, 8. POC phone number, 9. POC email address, and 10. Additional details/coordinating instructions (fees, pre-registration, etc.)

Events Postpone and/or Canceled:
Due to COVID-19, most events are postponed or canceled. We will resume publishing events once there is a change to social distancing recommendations.

How To Grow Your Veteran-Serving Organizations Webinars:
- April 2, 2020, 2-3 p.m.
- Diversified Funding: A Pathway To Sustainability Webinars
- Register online at Website.
- An introduction to diversified fundraising, steps you can take immediately to improve your development strategies and a look at how the Military Connected Fundraising Academy may expand in 2020.
- April 3, 2020, 1-2 p.m.
- Fundraising & Advocacy Strategies for Nonprofits: Pandemic Response Webinars
- Register online at Website.
- To help you find funding faster and serve veterans better, focused on fundraising in the midst of a pandemic. Better equip you for service at your veteran-organization.

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