

VDC Provider COVID-19 Listening Session Two

April 15, 2020

Agenda

- Welcome
- Goals of the COVID-19 Listening Session Two
- Learnings from VDC Providers and Telehealth Resources
- Families First Coronavirus Response Act (FFCRA)
- Announcements from VHA Regarding VDC
- Question and Answer
- Closing

VDC Providers Using Telehealth

- Vicky Abdella, AAA of District 7, Inc., OH
- Jennifer Beck, Kathy Vesley, Melissa Blake, Bay Aging, VA
- Please share your experiences using telehealth for VDC using the chat function!

Telehealth Resources

- **VA Telehealth Resources**

- ▶ VA Telehealth website: <https://www.telehealth.va.gov/>
- ▶ VA Video Connects: <https://www.mobile.va.gov/app/va-video-connect>
- ▶ VA Fact Sheet on Telehealth services:
https://www.va.gov/COMMUNITYCARE/docs/news/VA_Telehealth_Services.pdf

- **Virtual Case Management Considerations and Resources for Human Services Program by ASPE:** <https://aspe.hhs.gov/pdf-report/virtual-case-management>

- **Tech for Troops** is a Non-Partisan 501c-3 Non-Profit Corporation that provides Veterans with skills, computers, and IT workforce training. <https://techfortroops.org/>

- **State Assistive Technology (AT) Act Programs** provide training on assistive technology, demonstrate different types of assistive technology that can be used in telehealth, and provide short term loans of assistive technology. To find your State AT program go to: <https://www.at3center.net/stateprogram>

- ▶ AT News and Tips blog on tips for conducting accessible zoom telehealth meetings: <https://at3centerblog.com/2020/04/01/six-tips-for-zoom-accessibility/>

Additional Telehealth Resources

- **NCOA**

- ▶ Webinar: [Tools for Reaching a Remote Audience](#)
- ▶ Document: [Tools for Reaching a Remote Audience](#)
- ▶ [NCOA COVID-19 Resources for Professionals](#)

- **Center for Connected Health Policy – The National Telehealth Policy Resource Center**

- ▶ [COVID-19 Telehealth Policies and Resources](#)

Announcements from VHA regarding VDC



Daniel Schoeps,
Director, VA Purchased
Long-Term Services and
Supports

Families First Coronavirus Response Act (FFCRA) and Impact on VDC Providers

- FFCRA (Public Law 116-127) was signed into law on March 18th, 2020
- FFCRA Provisions Affecting Veterans in VDC and their Direct Care Workers, including:
 - ▶ **The Emergency Paid Sick Leave Act (EPSLA)**
 - ▶ **The Emergency Family and Medical Leave Expansion Act (EFMLEA)**
 - ▶ **Employer Exemption**
 - ▶ **Tax Credits**

The Emergency Paid Sick Leave Act (EPSLA)

- Requires that certain employers provide up to 80 hours of paid sick leave to employees who need to take leave from work for certain specified reasons related to COVID-19.
- Provides two weeks (80 hours or a part-time employee's two-week equivalent) of paid leave.

Reason Able to Take Leave	Entitled Leave Benefits
Subject to Federal, State, or local quarantine or isolation orders related to COVID-19	Benefits are paid 100%, up to \$511 daily and \$5,110 total
Advised by a health care provider to self-quarantine due to COVID-19	Benefits are paid 100%, up to \$511 daily and \$5,110 total
Experiencing COVID-19 symptoms and is seeking a medical diagnosis	Benefits are paid 100%, up to \$511 daily and \$5,110 total
Caring for an individual subject to orders described in (1) or self-quarantine as described in (2)	Benefits are paid 2/3, up to \$200 daily and \$2,000 total
Experiencing any other substantially similar condition specified by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services	Benefits are paid, up to \$200 daily and \$2,000 total

The Emergency Family and Medical Leave Expansion Act (EFMLEA)

- Requires that certain employers provide up to 10 weeks of paid and 2 weeks unpaid emergency family and medical leave to eligible employees.

Reason Entitled to Take Leave	Entitled Leave Benefits
Employee is caring for his or her son or daughter whose school or place of care is closed	Benefits are paid 2/3 for up to \$200 daily and \$12,000 total
Employee is caring for a child whose child care provider is unavailable for reasons related to COVID-19	Benefits are paid 2/3 for up to \$200 daily and \$12,000 total

Employer Exemption

- Certain employers, including those that employ a health care provider, are ***exempt*** from the requirements to provide paid sick or emergency family and medical leave.
- Based on the U.S. Department of Labor’s (DOL) definition of a health care provider, Veterans enrolled in VDC ***are exempt from the law.***
- However, ***Veterans can choose to provide these benefits to employees on a case-by-case basis.***

Tax Credits

- Covered employers qualify for dollar-for-dollar reimbursement through tax credits for all qualifying wages paid for leave as required under the FFCRA.
- Qualifying wages are those paid to an employee who takes leave under the Act for a qualifying reason, up to the appropriate per diem and aggregate payment caps.
- If a Veteran chooses to pay for an employee benefit under FFCRA, it **will not** impact their VA VDC budget.
 - ▶ The VDC Provider's Financial Management Service (FMS) entity will pay the benefits and will be reimbursed through tax credits.
 - ▶ If a worker is unable to provide services to a Veteran, the VDC Provider should immediately arrange for back-up workers to provide care.
 - VDC Providers need to monitor the potential effect to the Veteran's budget if the back-up worker (including agency services) is paid a different rate than the worker unable to provide care.

FFCRA Resources for VDC Providers

- VA will be distributing resources to support VDC programs to include:
 - ▶ VDC FFCRA Fact Sheet and Instruction Guide
 - ▶ VDC FFCRA Veteran Mail Template
 - ▶ VDC FFCRA Benefits Tracker
- [FFCRA \(Public Law 116-127\)](#)
- DOL Resources:
 - ▶ [DOL's Website for FFCRA](#)
 - ▶ [Final Rule: Paid Leave under the Families First Coronavirus Response Act](#)
 - ▶ [\[POSTER\] Federal Employee Rights: Paid Sick Leave and Expanded Family and Medical Leave under The Families First Coronavirus Response Act \(FFCRA\)](#)
 - ▶ [SPANISH: \[POSTER\] Federal Employee Rights: Paid Sick Leave and Expanded Family and Medical Leave under The Families First Coronavirus Response Act \(FFCRA\)](#)
 - ▶ [Families First Coronavirus Response Act: Employer Paid Leave Requirements](#)
 - ▶ [Families First Coronavirus Response Act: Employee Paid Leave Rights](#)
 - ▶ [Families First Coronavirus Response Act: Questions and Answers](#)

VDC Next Steps for FFCRA

- FFCRA provisions will not be enforced until April 17th.
 - ▶ Any new information from DoL, IRS or Department of Treasury pertaining to FFCRA will be shared with the group
- Review the resources developed for VDC Programs
- Follow the instructions in the fact sheet and instruction guide
- Use your judgment in supporting one another, Veterans, their caregivers and direct care workers!

Questions and Answers

Options for sharing information and asking questions:

1. Use the raise your hand function and we will unmute your line.
2. Use the chat feature in the right side panel of the WebEx platform to enter your questions and send to “all participants.”



Mentimeter Survey

Go to menti.com and enter code: 22 21 00



Please enter the code

Submit

The code is found on the screen in front of you

Closing

- Please email the VDC Technical Assistance Team with any questions: veterandirected@acl.hhs.gov
- A FAQ is posted online at: <https://nwd.acl.gov/vdc.html>