Pictured in photo: NF/SGVHS staff receiving shipment of the first distribution of the COVID-19 vaccine supply to be used to vaccinate frontline health care workers and Veterans across the north Florida, south Georgia catchment area.

For immediate release:
Tuesday, December 22, 2020

North Florida/South Georgia Veterans Health System receives COVID-19 vaccine

Gainesville, Fla. – Vaccinations began today, Tuesday, December 22, 2020, at the North Florida/South Georgia Veterans Health System's (NF/SGVHS) Malcom Randall VA Medical Center located in Gainesville Florida.

"Our dedicated staff have been working around the clock to ensure a safe, evidence-based and equity-focused vaccine rollout for our frontline workers and Veterans," said Thomas Wisnieski, North Florida/South Georgia Veterans Health System Director. "We are proud to offer the COVID-19 vaccine."

The U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) has authorized COVID-19 vaccine under an Emergency Use Authorization (EUA). Manufactured by Pfizer and Moderna, the vaccines have proven to be at least 94% effective in clinical trials with limited side effects.

The initial supply of the vaccine received is extremely limited. Per CDC guidance, NF/SGVHS will first vaccinate health care personnel – as they are essential in continuing to care for patients throughout the pandemic – and Veteran inpatients in Community Living Centers and Spinal Cord Injury and Disorder Centers.

It is important to understand that many Veterans will not be able to get the vaccine during this initial rollout. To reduce the risk of exposure to COVID-19, Veterans should not come into a NF/SGVHS facility looking to receive a vaccine. Care teams will contact Veterans when a vaccine is available, based on their personal risk factors and vaccine availability.

"Our goal is to offer the vaccine to all Veterans and employees who want to be vaccinated as increased supply of the vaccine is received," said Thomas Wisnieski, North Florida/South Georgia Veterans Health System Director.

Veterans can speak with their care teams, visit the VA web page at www.va.gov/health-care/covid-19-vaccine/ or contact the VISN 8 Clinical Contact Center by calling 1-877-741-3400, press 2 for more information.

"...to care for him who shall have borne the battle and his widow, and his orphan..."
- President Abraham Lincoln

U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs