



**AMERICAN FEDERATION OF GOVERNMENT EMPLOYEES
NATIONAL VETERANS AFFAIRS COUNCIL #53**

**Affiliated with the AFL - CIO
Mid-Term Bargaining Committee**

Oscar L. Williams Jr., Chair 2 nd Exec. V-President 29 Lake Street Danville, IL 61832-6101	Bill Wetmore, Member 3 rd Exec. V-President 2319 Alava Court Waldorf, MD 20603	Willie Haywood, Member 6 th Dist. Rep., NVAC 17705 Garden Blvd. Cleveland, OH 44128	Tinita Cole, Member NVAC Nat., Rep. VAMC Dayton Dayton, OH 45428	Harold Robbins, Member AFGE President Local 559 VAMC Orlando Orlando, FL 32803
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July 16, 2020

Michael Picerno, Acting Executive Director
Office of Labor Management Relations (LMR)
Department of Veterans Affairs
810 Vermont Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20420

Subject: VA COVID-19 Screening Tool for Staff

Dear Mr. Picerno:

In accordance with Article 47, Section 2, of the Master Agreement, National VA Council #53 is formally demanding to bargain on VA COVID-19 Screening Tool for Staff as cited above within the Department. Please provide the NVAC's Mid-Term Bargaining Committee named above with all information and/or data related to this subject. The negotiations of this matter should normally begin no later than twenty (20) workdays after the Management Chief Negotiator in this matter receives our demand to bargain.

Please cease and desist any implementation until the bargaining obligation has been met. The NVAC's Mid-Term Bargaining Committee may request a briefing over the cited subject above, before sending any proposals. If you have any questions, please call me at (217) 670-9357.

Sincerely,

Oscar L. Williams, Jr.
Chairperson, Mid-Term Bargaining Committee
2nd Executive Vice President
National VA Council #53

cc: Alma L. Lee, President National VA Council #53
NVAC Executive Committee

AFGE: Good Government We Are Ready

VA



U.S. Department
of Veterans Affairs

News Release

Office of Public Affairs
Media Relations

Washington, DC 20420
(202) 461-7600
www.va.gov

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
June 29, 2020

VA launches COVID-19 screening tool

Pre-screening expedites Veteran access to facilities for care

WASHINGTON – The U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) announced today the launching of a digital [COVID-19 screening tool](#) to streamline Veteran access to medical care during the coronavirus pandemic.

The tool, designed with Veteran and staff input, enables the screening of more than 10,000 people each day.

Veterans, their caregivers and VA health care employees can use this tool on their mobile phones before entering facilities. It takes less than a minute to complete and helps reduce wait times, lowers exposure risk and eases patient stress. It also helps Veterans gain confidence with increased digital interactions as part of their VA health care experience.

“This screening tool emphasizes the ongoing importance of VA’s investment in digital modernization, as it went from initial concept to national availability in less than two weeks,” said VA Secretary Robert Wilkie. “In addition to providing a broad range of innovations and improvements that significantly benefit the Veterans we serve; our culture of innovation allows us to respond quickly to urgent and evolving needs.”

To protect patients and staff, VA screens everyone for coronavirus symptoms and exposure each time they enter a health facility. VA staff uses the information received to direct people to either enter the building or go to a designated area for additional screening.

Veterans, caregivers and staff can use the tool by texting the word “SCREEN” to 53079 or scan a dedicated QR code with their mobile phone to get a link to the tool. They then answer a series of simple questions and share their results at the VA facility entrance.

For more about VA efforts to meet Veteran and staff needs during the coronavirus pandemic, visit [VA.gov coronavirus FAQs](#) and [VA’s public health response](#).

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