

The VFW State Surgeon, GinaMary Doherty, attended a virtual VA New England Management Update Meeting (MINIMAC) and would like to share what she has learned. Many good positive advances being made for veterans and families.

1. Covid-19 vaccines from Pfizer and Moderna are a two dose vaccine and COULD POSSIBLY be available to high risk veterans at the end of November. CBOCs could possibly see the vaccine in Feb/Mar. VA Bedford Mass will be one of the first distribution sites.

2. Through the Homeless Veterans Programs: HUD VASH and Safe Haven, SSVF, partnered with OSDRI and Veterans Inc., have been able to provide housing, smart phones, and care to hundreds of homeless veterans. These programs also work on PREVENTION of homelessness so please reach out if you know someone struggling to pay rent or facing eviction.

3. New this year VA employees have a mandatory obligation to get a flu shot.

4. The Veterans Crisis Line is open to families as well, not just veterans. 1-800-273-8255, press 1 or VIA TEXT 838255.

5. The risk of isolation has obviously increased due to covid-19 fatigue. We are all tired of it but, please continue to wear a mask and social distance. If you even think you are struggling with anything, please reach out to the crisis line.

*Be well everyone!*

*GMDoherty*

*Veterans Are Family*

- [PVAMC Director Lawrence Connell Opening Remarks](#)
- [VA Homeless Program during COVID-19](#)
- [PVAMC Homeless Program](#)