



# TOXIC EXPOSURE SCREENING INFORMATION

*VA is committed to providing screening, health care, and resources to Veterans with toxic exposure concerns from military service.*

## TOXIC EXPOSURES

While toxic exposure is defined by law, generally there are several types of possible exposures or hazards Veterans may have experienced during their military service. Some common examples appear below.

- » **Open Burn Pits/Airborne Hazards:** Contaminants or substances in the air including smoke and fumes from open burn pits and fine particulate matter.
- » **Gulf War related exposures:** Veterans may have been exposed to a variety of environmental hazards including pesticides and oil well fires.
- » **Agent Orange:** An herbicide used to thin-out thick foliage commonly found in jungles and fields.
- » **Radiation:** Exposure from sources such as nuclear weapons.
- » **Camp Lejeune contaminated water exposure:** Between August 1, 1953, and December 31, 1987, Veterans and their families may have been exposed to contaminated drinking water.
- » **Other exposures:** There are other potential toxic exposures that may occur during military service.

## MANAGE YOUR HEALTH

Proactively developing a long-term health care plan with your care team can help detect conditions early and treat or lessen the effect of complications resulting from exposure(s).

## TALK WITH A VA PROVIDER:

- » Call **1-800-MyVA411** then **press 8**, or a local VA clinical care team
- » **Send a secure message** to your clinical care team through your patient portal:  
My HealthVet at: [www.myhealth.va.gov](http://www.myhealth.va.gov) or My VA Health at: [patientportal.myhealth.va.gov](http://patientportal.myhealth.va.gov)
- » Discuss exposure concerns at your next VA appointment

## ENROLL IN VA CARE:

- » Online [www.va.gov/health-care/apply/application/introduction](http://www.va.gov/health-care/apply/application/introduction)
- » Call 877-222-VETS (8387)
- » Visit your nearest VA medical center and enroll in person: [www.va.gov/find-locations](http://www.va.gov/find-locations)



*Scan with your mobile device  
to access this document*



U.S. Department  
of Veterans Affairs

---

## REGISTRY HEALTH EXAMS

Registry health exams are no-cost voluntary environmental exposure medical exams. VA has several health registries - these include: Agent Orange, Airborne Hazard and Open Burn Pit, Gulf War (includes Operations Iraqi Freedom and New Dawn), Ionizing Radiation, Depleted Uranium Follow-Up Program, Embedded Fragment Surveillance Center.

- » You may be eligible to participate in one or more of these health registries. *Note: The registry evaluation is not a compensation exam or required for other VA benefits.*
- » Registries can alert you to possible health problems related to your military service and help VA better understand and respond to these health problems more effectively.

## SCHEDULE A REGISTRY EXAM WITH YOUR LOCAL ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH COORDINATOR

- » Online [www.publichealth.va.gov/exposures/coordinators.asp](http://www.publichealth.va.gov/exposures/coordinators.asp)
- » Call 1-800-MyVA411, then press 8
- » Visit your local VA Medical Center

---

## ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

- » Visit [www.va.gov/PACT](http://www.va.gov/PACT) or call 1-800-MyVA411, then press 8
- » Information on military environmental exposures: [www.publichealth.va.gov/exposures/index.asp](http://www.publichealth.va.gov/exposures/index.asp)
- » Exposure benefits information: [www.va.gov/disability/eligibility](http://www.va.gov/disability/eligibility)
- » Download the free VA Exposure Ed mobile app: [mobile.va.gov/app/exposure-ed](http://mobile.va.gov/app/exposure-ed)

---

## VA PRESUMPTIVE CONDITIONS

Veterans may be eligible for disability benefits and/or compensation if they have a health condition that results in disability and was connected to their military service. For many health conditions, you need to prove that your service caused your condition. For some conditions, we automatically assume (or “presume”) that your service caused your condition. We call these “presumptive conditions.” We consider a condition presumptive when it’s established by law or regulation. If you have a presumptive condition, you do not need to prove that your service caused the condition. You only need to meet the service requirements for the presumption.

## BENEFITS

- » Veterans with presumptive diseases may be eligible for benefits such as disability compensation
- » Surviving spouses, dependent children and/or parents of deceased Veterans may be eligible for benefits such as dependency and indemnity compensation and accrued benefits
- » Veterans who had claims that were previously denied can file supplemental claims
- » **To File a Claim for Benefits**
  - Submit online: [www.va.gov/disability/how-to-file-claim](http://www.va.gov/disability/how-to-file-claim)
  - Access VA benefits: [www.ebenefits.va.gov](http://www.ebenefits.va.gov)
  - Call VA Benefits hotline: 800-827-1000 for help filing a claim
  - Locate a local Veteran Service Officer [www.va.gov/ogc/apps/accreditation/index.asp](http://www.va.gov/ogc/apps/accreditation/index.asp)



Scan with your mobile device  
to access this document



U.S. Department  
of Veterans Affairs



**U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs**

Veterans Health Administration  
Boston Healthcare System

### How can Veterans apply for service compensation?

- Call the VA benefits assistance center to schedule an appointment to meet with a benefits counselor: 1-800-827-1000

- Schedule an appointment online with the VBA office closest to you through this website:

<https://vets.force.com/VAVERA/s/>

- o Appointments can be made virtual or in-person

- Applications can be done online or via paper

- o To apply directly online using a MHV or ID.me account visit:

<https://www.va.gov/disability/how-to-file-claim/>

- o Or follow this link <https://www.va.gov/disability/file-disability-claim-form-21-526ez/introduction>

and complete the VA Form 21-526EZ <http://www.vba.va.gov/pubs/forms/VBA-21-526EZ-ARE.pdf> which can be printed and mailed to:

Department of Veterans Affairs Claims Intake Center  
PO Box 4444  
Janesville, WI 5354

---

### Tips for Veterans in Massachusetts:

- Speak with someone at the VBA first before submitting your application, as the form can be confusing and wording you use is important

- Veteran Service Officers (VSOs) can also help with submitting claims and assist with self-advocacy. Your VSO from your Massachusetts town can help you:

<https://www.mass.gov/info-details/find-a-veterans-service-officer-near-you>



Scan with your mobile device  
to access this document



U.S. Department  
of Veterans Affairs

**Learn More:**

Scan the following codes with your mobile device to access additional resources and information:

<p>Presumptive Conditions Associated with Agent Orange</p> 	<p>Presumptive Conditions Associated with Airborne Hazards and Open Burn Pits</p> 
<p>Presumptive Conditions Associated with Gulf War Exposures</p> 	<p>Other Presumptive Conditions Associated with Gulf War Exposures</p> 
<p>Presumptive Conditions Associated With Camp Lejeune</p> 	<p>Other Presumptive Conditions Associated with Radiation</p> 
<p>Toxic Exposure Screening Information</p> 	<p>VA Mobile Exposure Ed App</p> 



**U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs**

Veterans Health Administration  
Boston Healthcare System



*Scan with your mobile device  
to access this document*



**U.S. Department  
of Veterans Affairs**