



# PACT ACT FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS



The **PACT Act** is a new law that expands VA health care and benefits for Veterans exposed to burn pits and other toxic substances. This law helps us provide generations of Veterans—and their survivors—with the care and benefits they've earned and deserve.

The Act **(1)** expands and extends eligibility for VA health care for Veterans with toxic exposures and Veterans of the Vietnam era, Gulf War era, and Post-9/11 era, and **(2)** expands eligibility for benefits for Veterans exposed to toxic substances.

## What new or expanded presumptions will the Act create and when will they be in effect?

VETERANS AND SURVIVORS CAN FILE CLAIMS FOR ALL CONDITIONS OUTLINED IN THE PACT ACT IMMEDIATELY.

### For Gulf War and post 9-11 Veterans, that includes:

Brain cancer, Glioblastoma, Respiratory (*breathing-related*) cancer of any type, Gastrointestinal cancer of any type, Head cancer of any type, Lymphoma of any type, Lymphomatic cancer of any type, Neck cancer, Pancreatic cancer, Reproductive cancer of any type, Kidney cancer, Melanoma, Asthma (*diagnosed after service*), Chronic rhinitis, Chronic sinusitis, Constrictive bronchiolitis or obliterative bronchiolitis,

Emphysema, Granulomatous disease, Interstitial lung disease (*ILD*), Pleuritis, Pulmonary fibrosis, Sarcoidosis, Chronic bronchitis, Chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (*COPD*).

### For Vietnam Veterans and other Veterans exposed to tactical herbicides, that includes two Agent Orange presumptive conditions:

Monoclonal gammopathy of undetermined significance (*MGUS*), High blood pressure (*hypertension*).

## How can Veterans apply for VA health care?

Apply **online** at [VA.gov/health-care/apply/application/introduction](https://www.va.gov/health-care/apply/application/introduction).

**Call** our toll-free hotline at 877-222-8387, M-F, 8:00 a.m. - 8:00 p.m. ET.

**Mail** a completed, signed Application for Health Benefits ([VA Form 10-10EZ](#)).

**Bring a completed, signed VA Form 10-10EZ** with you to your [nearest medical center or clinic](#) or get help through your [state's Department of Veterans Affairs Service Officer](#).

**Get help** filing your claim by working with an [accredited representative](#).

## What are the PACT Act key components?



The Act **expands and extends eligibility for VA health care for Veterans with toxic-exposures** and Veterans of the Vietnam era, Gulf War era, and Post-9/11 era.



VA **will improve the decision-making process** for determining what medical conditions will be considered for presumptive status.



Every enrolled Veteran will **receive an initial toxic exposure screening** and a follow-up screening at least every five years. Veterans who are not enrolled, but who are eligible to enroll, will have an opportunity to enroll and receive the screening.



VA health care staff and claims processors will receive **toxic exposure-related education and training**.



The Act requires **research studies** on mortality of Veterans who served in Southwest Asia during the Gulf War, Post-9/11 Veteran health trends, and Veteran cancer rates.



The Act will help VA **build a stronger, more skilled workforce** to meet the growing demand for benefits and services.



The Act authorizes **31 new facilities** across the country, providing greater access to VA health care.

## How can a Veteran file a claim?



Veterans who would like to file a claim must complete [VA Form 21-526EZ](#) to apply for benefits and submit any supportive evidence.



To learn about standard VA disability claims, supplemental claims, secondary claims, and more visit: [VA.gov/disability/how-to-file-claim/when-to-file](https://www.va.gov/disability/how-to-file-claim/when-to-file).

## If a Veteran was previously denied a claim, what can they do?

VA will contact Veterans when a presumption of service connection is established or changed. However, **Veterans previously denied a toxic-exposure related claim** are encouraged to file a supplemental claim. Once a supplemental claim is received, VA will review the claim under the new law.



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Learn more and sign up at [VA.gov/PACT](https://www.va.gov/PACT)  
Download the [VA Health and Benefits App](#)  
Call us at 1-800-MyVA411 (1-800-698-2411)  
Find a VA at [VA.gov/find-locations/](https://www.va.gov/find-locations/)



# PACT ACT & GULF WAR, POST-9/11 ERA VETERANS



The **PACT Act**, signed into law August 10, 2022, **expands health care eligibility to several groups of Veterans** who may not have been eligible before.

 Veterans who participated in a **toxic exposure risk activity** (as defined by law) while serving on active duty, active duty for training, or inactive duty training.

Veterans assigned to a duty station in (including airspace above) certain locations during specific periods of time on or after:



**August 2, 1990**, in Bahrain, Iraq, Kuwait, Oman, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, Somalia, or United Arab Emirates

**September 11, 2001**, in Afghanistan, Djibouti, Egypt, Jordan, Lebanon, Syria, Uzbekistan, or Yemen, or any other country determined relevant by VA

Veterans who deployed in support of:



Operation Enduring Freedom    Operation Iraqi Freedom  
Operation Freedom's Sentinel    Operation New Dawn  
Operation Inherent Resolve    Resolute Support Mission

### SPECIAL ENROLLMENT PERIOD:

Veterans who served on active duty in a theater of combat operations during a period of war after the Persian Gulf War or in combat against a hostile force during a period of hostilities after November 11, 1998, and who were discharged or released between September 11, 2001, and October 1, 2013, may enroll in VA health care **between October 1, 2022 and October 1, 2023.**



### Toxic Exposure Screenings

As a general matter, there are several types of possible exposures or hazards Veterans may have experienced during their military service, including:

- Air Pollutants
- Radiation
- Occupational Hazards
- Chemicals
- Warfare Agents

**ON NOVEMBER 8, 2022:** VA will begin incorporating toxic exposure screenings. Every Veteran enrolled for VA health care will receive an initial toxic exposure screening and a follow-up screening at least every five years. Eligible Veterans who have not enrolled will have an opportunity to enroll and receive the screening.



The PACT Act adds **20+ new presumptive conditions**. Learn more online at [VA.gov/PACT](https://va.gov/PACT).

Participate in the **VA Airborne Hazards and Open Burn Pit Registry** to help VA better understand potential health effects of exposures and proactively identify health concerns Veterans can discuss with their health care providers for follow-up care.

**Family members or dependents of a deceased Veteran** may qualify for various VA benefits due to the additional disabilities defined in the PACT Act if they meet eligibility requirements. More information for survivors is available online at [VA.gov/PACT](https://va.gov/PACT).

### 4 EASY WAYS TO APPLY FOR VA HEALTH CARE



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Mail a completed, signed Application for Health Benefits [VA Form 10-10EZ](https://va.gov/health-care/apply/form-10-10EZ)



Bring a completed, signed [VA Form 10-10EZ](https://va.gov/health-care/apply/form-10-10EZ) to the nearest VA Medical Center or clinic.

### 4 EASY WAYS TO GET STARTED WITH CLAIMS



Learn more at [VA.gov/disability/how-to-file-claim/](https://va.gov/disability/how-to-file-claim/)



Visit a VBA Regional Office [VA.gov/benefits/offices.asp](https://va.gov/benefits/offices.asp)



Call the Benefits hotline (for specific questions) at 1-800-827-1000



Work with an accredited VSO [VA.gov/ogc/apps/accreditation/index.asp](https://va.gov/ogc/apps/accreditation/index.asp)



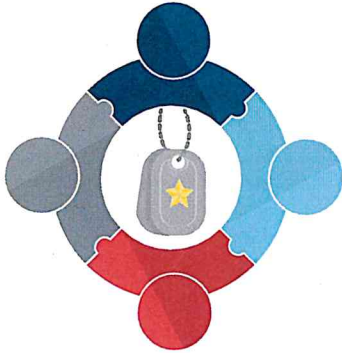
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# VA SURVIVOR BENEFITS & THE PACT ACT

You may be eligible for VA benefits and services after your loved one has passed.



## The PACT Act makes it easier for many survivors to receive Dependency and Indemnity Compensation (DIC).

VA will be contacting survivors who were previously denied DIC benefits and may be newly eligible under the PACT Act. You do not need to wait for VA to contact you to submit a claim.

### How to Apply for DIC and/or Accrued Benefits

Surviving family members may apply for these benefits using the appropriate VA form on [va.gov/family-member-benefits](https://va.gov/family-member-benefits).



#### Dependency and Indemnity Compensation

Monthly payment for the eligible surviving spouse, dependent children or parent(s) of the Veteran or service member IF Veteran or service member died in the line of duty or due to a service-related injury or illness.



#### Accrued Benefits

A one-time payment to a surviving spouse, dependent child(ren) or dependent parent(s) of a deceased Veteran based on relationship when the record shows additional benefits (such as VA compensation or pension) due to the Veteran prior to passing.

### Additional Survivor Benefits Available:



#### Burials and Burial Allowance

Burial benefits available include a gravesite in any of our National cemeteries with available space, opening and closing of the grave, perpetual care, a government headstone, marker, or medallion, a burial flag, and a Presidential Memorial Certificate, at no cost. Some survivors may also be eligible for a plot allowance, transportation allowance, and burial allowances based on the service connected disability status of the deceased Veteran.



#### Final Monthly Payment

If a Veteran who is receiving VA compensation or pension benefits passes away, their last month of benefits can be paid to their surviving spouse.



#### Home Loan Guaranty

Certificate of Eligibility is available for surviving spouses receiving DIC.



#### Education and Training

Chapter 35 benefits and Fry Scholarship are the two main GI Bill programs offering educational assistance to survivors and dependents of Veterans who died in the line of duty or as a result of service-related disabilities.



#### Health Care

Survivors and dependents of Veterans may qualify for health care benefits, such as CHAMPVA.

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