

The PACT Act and your VA benefits

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.

This page will help answer your questions about what the PACT Act means for you or your loved ones. You can also call us at [800-698-2411](tel:800-698-2411) (TTY: [711](tel:711)). And you can file a claim for PACT Act-related disability compensation or apply for VA health care now.



[File a disability claim online](https://www.va.gov/disability/file-disability-claim-form-21-526ez/)

[\(https://www.va.gov/disability/file-disability-claim-form-21-526ez/\)](https://www.va.gov/disability/file-disability-claim-form-21-526ez/)



[Apply for VA health care \(https://www.va.gov/health-care/apply/application/\)](https://www.va.gov/health-care/apply/application/)



What's the PACT Act and how will it affect my VA benefits and care?

The PACT Act is perhaps the largest health care and benefit expansion in VA history. The full name of the law is The Sergeant First Class (SFC) Heath Robinson Honoring our Promise to Address Comprehensive Toxics (PACT) Act.

The PACT Act will bring these changes:

- Expands and extends eligibility for VA health care for Veterans with toxic exposures and Veterans of the Vietnam, Gulf War, and post-9/11 eras
- Adds more than 20 new presumptive conditions for burn pits and other toxic exposures
- Adds more presumptive-exposure locations for Agent Orange and radiation
- Requires VA to provide a toxic exposure screening to every Veteran enrolled in VA health care
- Helps us improve research, staff education, and treatment related to toxic exposures

If you're a Veteran or survivor, you can file claims now to apply for PACT Act-related benefits.

What does it mean to have a presumptive condition for toxic exposure?

To get a VA disability rating, your disability must connect to your military service. For many health conditions, you need to prove that your service caused your condition.



But 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 don't need to prove that your service caused the condition. You only need to meet the service requirements for the presumption.

Gulf War era and post-9/11 Veteran eligibility

Expand all +

What burn pit and other toxic exposure conditions are now presumptive?

How do I know if I have a presumptive exposure to burn pits?

Am I eligible for free VA health care as a post-9/11 combat Veteran?

What if I was discharged or released before October 1, 2013?

Vietnam era Veteran eligibility

Expand all +



What new Agent Orange presumptive conditions will VA add?

Based on the PACT Act, we've added 2 new Agent Orange presumptive conditions:

- High blood pressure (also called hypertension)
- Monoclonal gammopathy of undetermined significance (MGUS)

If you think you're eligible for VA health care and benefits, we encourage you to apply now.

What new Agent Orange presumptive locations will VA add?

We've added these 5 new locations to the list of presumptive locations:

- Any U.S. or Royal Thai military base in Thailand from January 9, 1962, through June 30, 1976
- Laos from December 1, 1965, through September 30, 1969
- Cambodia at Mimot or Krek, Kampong Cham Province from April 16, 1969, through April 30, 1969
- Guam or American Samoa or in the territorial waters off of Guam or American Samoa from January 9, 1962, through July 30, 1980
- Johnston Atoll or on a ship that called at Johnston Atoll from January 1, 1972, through September 30, 1977

If you served on active duty in any of these locations, we'll automatically assume (or "presume") that you had exposure to Agent Orange.



What new radiation presumptive locations will VA add?

Getting benefits

Collapse all -

How do I file a disability claim for a new presumptive condition?

If you haven't filed a claim yet for the presumptive condition, you can file a new claim online now. You can also file by mail, in person, or with the help of a trained professional.

[File for VA disability compensation online](https://www.va.gov/disability/file-disability-claim-form-21-526ez/)

(<https://www.va.gov/disability/file-disability-claim-form-21-526ez/>)

[Learn more about how to file a disability compensation claim](https://www.va.gov/disability/how-to-file-claim)

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

If we denied your disability claim in the past and we now consider your condition presumptive, you can submit a Supplemental Claim. We'll review your case again.

[Find out how to file a Supplemental Claim](https://www.va.gov/decision-reviews/supplemental-claim)

(<https://www.va.gov/decision-reviews/supplemental-claim>)

What if VA denied my claim but now considers my condition presumptive?

We encourage you to file a Supplemental Claim. When we receive a Supplemental Claim, we'll review the claim again.



Find out how to file a Supplemental Claim

(<https://www.va.gov/decision-reviews/supplemental-claim>)

Note: If we denied your claim in the past and we think you may be eligible now, we'll try to contact you. But you don't need to wait for us to contact you before you file a Supplemental Claim.

What if I have a pending claim for a condition that's now presumptive?

You don't need to do anything. If we added your condition after you filed your claim, we'll still consider it presumptive. We'll send you a decision notice when we complete our review.

Can I apply now?

Yes. We're considering all presumptive conditions established by the PACT Act presumptive on the date the bill becomes law.

If you think you may be eligible for VA health care or benefits, we encourage you to apply now.

When can I expect VA to make a decision on my PACT Act claim?

We encourage all Veterans and survivors to file for benefits now. We'll start to process PACT Act-related benefits in January 2023. We must wait for funding approval from Congress and put the needed systems in place before we can process these claims.

If you apply for benefits at any time in the next year and we grant your application, we'll likely backdate your benefits to the date of the bill signing. This means we'll pay you the amount you would



have received from August 10, 2022, to the date we grant your application.

Information for survivors

Expand all +

Will Veterans' survivors get any benefits based on the PACT Act?

Survivors may be eligible for VA benefits based on the PACT Act. You'll need to meet requirements for each benefit to qualify:

- **A monthly VA dependency and indemnity compensation (VA DIC) payment.** You may qualify if you're the surviving spouse, dependent child, or parent of a Veteran who died from a service-connected disability.
[Learn about VA DIC \(https://www.va.gov/disability/dependency-indemnity-compensation\)](https://www.va.gov/disability/dependency-indemnity-compensation)
- **A one-time accrued benefits payment.** You may qualify if you're the surviving spouse, dependent child, or dependent parent of a Veteran who we owed unpaid benefits at the time of their death.
[Learn about accrued benefits \(https://www.va.gov/resources/evidence-to-support-va-pension-dic-or-accrued-benefits-claims\)](https://www.va.gov/resources/evidence-to-support-va-pension-dic-or-accrued-benefits-claims)
- **Health care** through the Civilian Health and Medical Program of the Department of Veterans Affairs (CHAMPVA). You may qualify if you're the survivor or dependent of a Veteran with a service-connected disability.
[Learn about CHAMPVA \(https://www.va.gov/health-care/family-caregiver-benefits/champva/\)](https://www.va.gov/health-care/family-caregiver-benefits/champva/)



- **A burial allowance** for help with the Veteran's burial and funeral costs. You may qualify if you're the Veteran's surviving spouse, partner, child, or parent.

[Learn about burial allowances \(https://www.va.gov/burials-memorials/veterans-burial-allowance\)](https://www.va.gov/burials-memorials/veterans-burial-allowance)

What if VA denied my DIC claim and I think I'm now eligible?

[File a disability claim online](https://www.va.gov/disability/file-disability-claim-form-21-526ez/)

(https://www.va.gov/disability/file-disability-claim-form-21-526ez/)

[Apply for VA health care \(https://www.va.gov/health-care/apply/application/\)](https://www.va.gov/health-care/apply/application/)

Tags

How do you rate your experience on this page?

Good Bad

Submit feedback

Related information

[Exposure to hazardous chemicals and materials \(https://www.va.gov/disability/eligibility/hazardous-materials-exposure\)](https://www.va.gov/disability/eligibility/hazardous-materials-exposure)

VA benefits



Health care (<https://www.va.gov/health-care>)

Apply for VA health care, find out how to access services, and manage your health and benefits online.

Disability (<https://www.va.gov/disability>)

File a claim for disability compensation for conditions related to your military service, and manage your benefits over time.

Need more help?

MyVA411 main information line: [800-698-2411](tel:800-698-2411)

Last updated: August 10, 2022

Feedback



