

Is Your Loved One in a VA Facility?

Six Questions to Ask VA Facilities during COVID-19:

- 1. Has anyone in a VA contracted nursing facility or in the state's Veterans' Homes tested positive for COVID-19?**
 - What about staff and vendors?
- 2. What are VA contracted nursing facilities and state Veterans' Homes doing to prevent infections and minimize the risk of spreading the virus among residents, employees, public/visitors and family members?**
 - How are staff being screened, especially when the leave and return?
 - What precautions are in place for residents not in private rooms?
- 3. Do all nursing home staff, VA contract or state Veteran Home employees, have the personal protective equipment (PPE) – such as masks, face shields, gowns, gloves – they need to stay safe and keep safe?**
 - If not, what is the plan to obtain PPE?
 - Has staff been trained on how to properly use PPE?
- 4. What are nursing facilities doing to help Veteran residents stay connected with their families or other loved ones during this time?**
 - Does the facility help residents call their loved ones by phone or video?
 - Will the facility set up a regularly scheduled call between the Veteran and their family?
- 5. What is the plan for the nursing home to communicate important information to both Veteran residents and their families on a regular basis?**
 - Will the facility be contacting family members by phone or email?
 - When will that communication occur?
- 6. Are VA contracted nursing homes and the state's Veterans' Homes currently at full staffing levels for nurses, aides and other workers?**
 - If there are staffing shortages: What is the plan to make sure the needs of Veterans are being met – like bathing, feeding, medication management, social engagement?