



Department of Veterans Affairs (VA)
VA MIDWEST HEALTH CARE NETWORK
Veterans Integrated Service Network (VISN) 23
Network Update
July 2013
www.visn23.va.gov



VA's Action Plan: Burn Pits and Airborne Hazards

Registry for Veterans who may have been exposed

VA is working on a new Airborne Hazards and Open Burn Pit Registry for OEF/OIF/OND and 1990–1991 Gulf War Veterans. The new registry is being designed to enhance VA's ability to monitor the health effects of exposure.

The registry will include a web-based questionnaire for Veterans to report health concerns, exposures, and more. You may comment on the proposed questionnaire through August 5, 2013. Read the [June 5, 2013 Federal Register notice](#) to learn more.

VA is working to meet the one-year time frame for creating the registry as required by a [law signed Jan. 10, 2013](#).

VA will announce how to sign up once the registry is available. The registry will keep Veterans informed about studies and treatments.

If you are concerned about your exposure, talk to your health care provider or local [VA Environmental Health Coordinator](#).

To learn more on how you can protect your health, log on to VA's public health website at <http://www.publichealth.va.gov/>



The Twin Ports VA Clinic in Superior was remodeled to better serve Veterans with more space and services.

Veterans and the public are invited to attend an open house and tour of the [VA Twin Ports Outpatient Clinic](#) in Superior, WI, on July 12. Following a brief program at 11 a.m., the facility will be open for tours until 1 p.m. The program will include presentations by officials from the VA and Essentia Health. The clinic is located at 3520 Tower Avenue Superior, WI 54880.

VA Health Benefits News

If you served in the active military, naval or air service, including activated Reservists and National Guard members, you may qualify for VA health care benefits. VA encourages Veterans to take a few minutes to examine their eligibility for VA health care benefits by using its newly developed [Health Benefits Explorer](#).

The Explorer is designed to provide specific health care benefit information and, if any, out-of-pocket costs by the answering of just a few questions.

For more information, call us at 1 877-222-VETS (8387) or contact the eligibility office at the nearest VA medical facility.

We are Redesigning our Websites



Our new look is designed to help you easily and quickly access information with intuitive and easy-to-use navigation. We know you consider our websites as a front door to VA information, and we want you to feel welcome. The entire Department of Veterans Affairs began the process of an agency-wide website redesign in 2012. We think you will enjoy the new wider page layout. And even though each VA Medical Center has its own individual website, we think you should experience consistency and clarity across all sites. That's happening now and you will soon be able to go to any VA website and enjoy this same new and efficient navigation. This is your website. This new look and

design is the result of feedback we received from you. Thank you. We hope you enjoy our new home pages.

MRI Services Come to St. Cloud



Soon, St. Cloud VA patients in need of an MRI study will no longer need to travel to Minneapolis or use a community provider. Instead, the studies will be performed at the St. Cloud VA Medical Center in a new addition to the Imaging Clinic. Adding Magnetic Resonance Imaging (MRI) services is a significant addition to the diagnostic imaging services available at the St. Cloud VA Medical Center, and will enhance services to Veterans. In addition to saving Veterans time and effort, MRI studies performed on-site enable enhanced coordination of care by providing studies to the provider in a more responsive

manner. The addition of MRI services also greatly reduces Non-VA Medical Care costs. Projected cost savings are over \$800,000 per year. The MRI service will be housed in approximately 2500 sq. feet of new construction on the northeast corner of Bldg. 1. The location is in close proximity to other imaging services. The project also involved the remodeling of approximately 1100 square feet of existing space in the basement of Building 1. For more information log on to the St. Cloud VA Health Care System website at www.stcloud.va.gov

Are You a Veteran or Concerned About One?



The Veterans Crisis Line connects Veterans in crisis and their families and friends with qualified, caring VA responders through a confidential toll-free hotline, online chat, or text. Veterans and their loved ones can call **1-800-273-8255** and **Press 1**, **chat online**, or send a text message to **838255** to receive confidential support 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, and 365 days a year. Support for **deaf and hard of hearing** individuals is available.



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Calendar of Events – July 2013

- July 5, 12, 19, 26 and Aug 2, Tobacco Cessation, 2:00 PM - 3:00 PM (CST), Sioux Falls VAMC, Room F07, Lobby
- July 9 - Red Cross Blood Donation, 11:30 AM – 5:25 PM, Minneapolis VAMC, Flag Atrium
- July 9 - Women's Drum Circle 5:30 – 6:30 PM, St. Cloud VAMC, Building 8 (Basement)
- July 10 - Farmers Market, 2:00-4:00 PM, Lincoln CBOC, 600 S. 70th St.
- July 11 - VA Information Open House, 10:00 AM – 4:00 PM (CST), Holt County Annex, 128 N. 6th St., O'Neill, NE
- July 11, 2013 - O'Neill VA Clinic Anniversary Open House and Tours, 1:00 PM - 4:00 PM (CST), 555 E. John Street, O'Neill, Nebraska
- July 12 - Red Cross Blood Donation, 9:00 AM - 2:00 PM, Minneapolis VAMC, Flag Atrium
- July 16 - Law Clinic, 12:00 PM - 2:00 PM, St. Cloud VA Medical Center, Bldg. T-100
- July 16 - Women's Drum Circle 5:30 – 6:30 PM, St. Cloud VAMC, Building 8 (Basement)
- July 16 - Red Cross Blood Donation, 11:30 AM – 5:25 PM, Minneapolis VAMC, Flag Atrium
- July 17 - Voices for Veterans radio show 8:10 - 8:45 AM, AM 1240 WJON, (St. Cloud listening area)
- July 17 - Farmers Market, 2:00-4:00 PM, Lincoln CBOC, 600 S. 70th St.
- July 19 - Southwestern Minnesota Veterans' Law Clinic - 12:00 PM - 2:00 PM (CST) Montevideo CBOC
- July 19 - Red Cross Blood Donation, 9:00 AM - 2:00 PM, Minneapolis VAMC, Flag Atrium
- July 23 - Red Cross Blood Donation, 11:30 AM – 5:25 PM, Minneapolis VAMC, Flag Atrium
- July 23 - Women's Drum Circle 5:30 – 6:30 PM, St. Cloud VAMC, Building 8 (Basement)
- July 24 - Farmers Market, 2:00-4:00 PM, Lincoln CBO, 600 S. 70th St.
- July 24 - Shingles, pneumonia, and TDAP vaccine clinic 6:30 AM - 4:00 PM, St. Cloud VA Medical Center, Room F07, front lobby of the medical center
- July 26 - Red Cross Blood Donation, 9:00 AM - 2:00 PM, Minneapolis VAMC, Flag Atrium
- July 29 - Spa & Lunch - 9:00 AM - 3:00 PM, Model College: 201 8th Ave S, Saint Cloud
- July 30 - Women's Drum Circle 5:30 – 6:30 PM, St. Cloud VAMC, Building 8 (Basement)
- July 30 - Red Cross Blood Donation, 11:30 AM – 5:25 PM, Minneapolis VAMC, Flag Atrium
- July 31- Farmers Market, 2:00-4:00 PM, Lincoln CBO, 600 S. 70th St.
- July 31 - Spa & Lunch - 9:00 AM - 3:00 PM, Model College: 201 8th Ave S, Saint Cloud
- July 31 - Shingles, pneumonia, and TDAP vaccine clinic 6:30 AM - 4:00 PM, St. Cloud VA Medical Center, Room F07, front lobby of the medical center
- August 2 - Red Cross Blood Donation, 9:00 AM - 2:00 PM (CST), Minneapolis VAMC, Flag Atrium
- August 5 - Radio Talk Show, 8:10 – 8:45 AM, AM 1450 (KSNI) St. Cloud listening area
- August 5 - VA Pantry, 10:00 AM - 12:00 PM, VA Clinic, 600 S. 70th St, Lincoln, Nebraska, Bldg 40, Rm 105
- August 5 - Shingles, pneumonia, and TDAP vaccine clinic 6:30 AM - 4:00 PM, St. Cloud VA Medical Center, Room F07, front lobby of the medical center
- August 7- Farmers Market, 2:00-4:00 PM, Lincoln CBO, 600 S. 70th St.

*All time is Central Time Zone, unless noted otherwise.

For More information, call the Network Office at (651) 405-5600 or
Log on at www.visn23.va.gov or email sharyl.schaepe@va.gov