



Board of Chosen Freeholders

County of Hunterdon
71 Main Street, Building #1
PO Box 2900
Flemington, NJ 08822-2900

MEDIA RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

DATE: March 27, 2020

Contact: Susan J. Soloway, Freeholder Deputy Director

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Hunterdon Freeholders Tell Veterans VA And County VSO Are Working And Able To Help During Public Health Emergency

Hunterdon County Freeholder Board Deputy Director Susan J. Soloway, the Board's Veterans liaison, and Rich Booth, County Veterans Services Officer (VSO), are sharing the message with County Veterans that the Lyons and East Orange VA Hospitals are providing health services by appointment, VA claims are being processed and the County's VSO is available to help veterans.

Freeholder Soloway said, "It is important for our Veterans to know that they are still able to receive treatment, apply for benefits and that both the VA hospitals and Hunterdon County's VSO are providing the necessary services our Veterans need at this critical time."

Mr. Booth, accredited VSO for Hunterdon County, observing Governor Murphy's directive, is working remotely. Booth is answering calls and emails during regular business hours, and can arrange to meet with a Veteran if paperwork needs to be signed, by practicing social distancing protocol. Email and postal mail is encouraged, but in an effort to avoid delay, accommodations will be made on a case by case basis.

"Veterans who need VA Hospital Services need to call ahead first. The Lyons and East Orange Hospitals are operating by appointment. To call the Lyons VA Hospital, dial 908-647-0180. To call the East Orange VA Hospital, dial 973-676-1000. Both hospitals are spacing patient visits and are working directly with the CDC to protect patients and staff, while continuing to provide most services.

Veterans can also use VA Telehealth options, <https://telehealth.va.gov/type/home> (copy and paste into your web browser), Monday through Friday, 8 am to 5 pm," Mr. Booth said.

The online 'My HealtheVet' program, <https://www.myhealth.va.gov/mhv-portal-web/web/myhealthvet/secure-messaging-spotlight>, is also available and allows Veterans to refill prescriptions, update health caregivers on health conditions and can be accessed twenty-four hours a day, seven days a week.



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Freeholder Soloway encourages all Veterans to use online and telehealth options in the wake of this public health emergency. “Being cautious during this period when information is evolving on a daily basis is the best practice. Keep yourself and those around you safe by staying home and only making essential trips. The virus can lead to very serious complications, such as pneumonia, which can be fatal.”

To get answers to questions about the coronavirus or COVID-19 and how the VA is responding, visit <https://www.va.gov/>.

To contact VSO Booth, Veterans can call 908-788-1361 or email rbooth@co.hunterdon.nj.us.