



**U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs**

Veterans Health Administration

*Central Arkansas Veterans Healthcare System*

Special Notice from Central Arkansas Veterans Healthcare System

COVID-19 Update -- July 16, 2020

## **Spike in COVID-19 cases sparks change in CAVHS visitation policy**



Due to the increase in cases of COVID-19 in the community and our facility, patient visitation at our facilities is reverting to an exception-only basis at Central Arkansas Veterans Healthcare System (CAVHS). This policy goes into effect July 20 to preserve the safety of our Veterans and healthcare workers as we respond to this surge of the pandemic.

Exception-only means visitation for inpatient Veterans must be prearranged with our clinical staff. Only one visitor over the age of 18 will be allowed per Veteran to ensure proper safety precautions for our patients and health care workers.

For outpatient visits, the exception-only visitation policy means Veterans who need assistance may bring one caregiver over the age of 18 to attend their appointment. All other visitors or drivers will not be allowed inside our facilities.

Everyone entering our facilities are required to complete screening questions and have their temperature taken. Please allow up to 10 minutes to complete this process. Universal masking and strict social distancing guidelines are enforced inside our facilities.

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# Virtual screening clinic set up at CAVHS

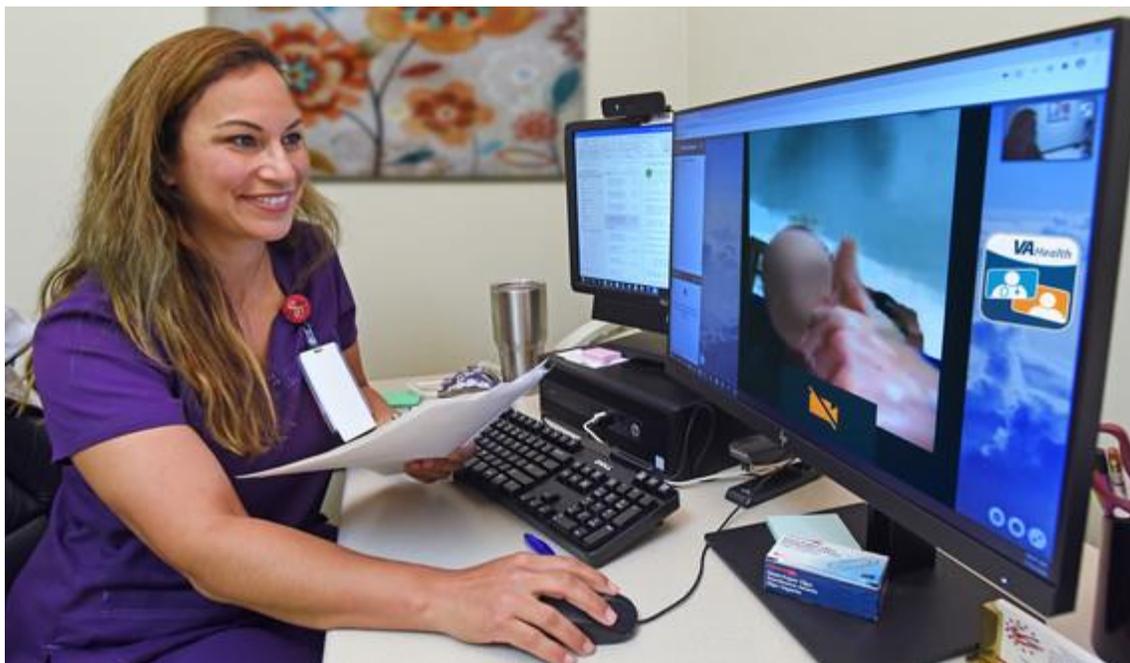
## ***Low-dose CT lung cancer screening via video keeps Veterans safe***

Central Arkansas Veterans Healthcare System's Imaging Service conducted their first virtual video Low-Dose CT (LDCT) lung cancer screening clinic July 14, allowing affected Veterans to participate via computer, tablet or mobile device.

In the wake of the COVID-19 pandemic and limited re-opening of services, the virtual LDCT lung cancer screening clinic was developed to provide Veterans detailed information on the benefits and potential risks of LDCT, and a forum to ask questions that help them make informed decisions. Seven Veterans have participated since the clinic began.

Lung cancer continues to be a challenging problem for some Veterans. In 2017, the Deputy Undersecretary for Health authorized VA medical centers to offer LDCT screening to Veterans at high risk for developing lung cancer. The screening is designed to educate patients not only on the benefits of the program, but on risks and potential harm as well.

As the COVID-19 pandemic widens throughout the U.S. and Arkansas, CAVHS has seen a significant rise in Telehealth appointments, including a rise of more than 9,600 VA Video Connect sessions since the beginning of the year.



*Advanced Practicing Nurse Sarah Tolleson virtually connects with a patient for his first Low-Dose CT lung cancer screening shared decision making clinic.*

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VA is also taking strides to bridge the digital divide for Veterans who lack the technology or broadband internet connectivity required to participate in VA telehealth services. At the national level, VA is working with strategic partners through the [Secretary's Center of Strategic Partnerships](#) to increase access to technology needed for Veterans to connect with their care team virtually.



Learn more about [VA Video Connect](#). For information about VA telehealth services visit [connectedcare.va.gov](https://connectedcare.va.gov).

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## Veterans Health & Wellness YouTube



A CAVHS Veteran talks about his experience with his integrated care team.



Ken Mayo, RN, explains Battlefield Acupuncture.

## CAVHS is looking out for your wellbeing



CAVHS' Cynthia Frusha leads a Tai Chi Yang 22 class.



CAVHS' Mandia Johnson talks about being mindful of our surroundings.