



National Guard Bureau (NGB) & Department of Veterans Affairs (VA)

COVID-19 Response Support

Purpose: Ensure National Guard leaders and Service members are aware of the services which may be requested from Department of Veterans Affairs (VA), Readjustment Counseling Service (RCS) direct counseling, outreach, and care coordination support for activated National Guard units during the COVID-19 response.

Background: RCS is in a unique position to offer support (direct counseling, outreach, and care coordination) to National Guard units activated in the COVID-19 pandemic response. Through the ongoing implementation of the RCS NGB Memorandum of Understanding (i.e., Mobile Vet Center Initiative), RCS leadership has developed relationships with NGB national leadership and the 54 states, territories, and DC.

Potential Services: Services are flexible and can be tailored locally ranging from simple outreach and referral to virtual or direct face to face counseling. Services are provided by staff on site or virtually and can include a Mobile Vet Center when appropriate. More specifically Vet Center staff can provide the following:

- + On-site or virtual (telehealth) counseling (crisis intervention, stress management, grief, symptoms associated with PTSD)
- + VA benefits information
- + VA care coordination and referral to services outside the scope of VetCenter services
- + Assistance with VHA Health Care

Logistics: Any National Guard unit interested in partnership during current and future COVID-19 activations contact RCS leadership through VHA10RCSAction@va.gov. Please include pertinent information such as unit location, size, preferred time, and preferred medium (in-person or virtual services). RCS leadership staff will provide the requester with an operational plan to address the objectives of the request as well as a connection to local POCs to execute the mission.

Prepared By: MAJ Dale Willis, WRF Partnerships & Outreach, dale.w.willis4.mil@mail.mil, 703-607-1478.