FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

April 16, 2021

VA Central Western Mass. expands COVID-19 vaccinations to all Veterans, caregivers, and spouses under SAVE LIVES Act

LEEDS, **Mass**. — VA Central Western Massachusetts Healthcare System expanded its COVID-19 vaccinations to all Veterans, caregivers, spouses, and <u>some other beneficiaries</u> under the authority granted by the <u>SAVE LIVES Act</u>, signed by President Joe Biden on March 24, 2021.

If you believe you are eligible under the SAVES LIVES Act to receive a vaccine, please visit www.va.gov/covid-19-vaccine to register. Your local VA Medical Center will contact you when additional vaccine is available. The VA is vaccinating all individuals in the categories listed above regardless of age or any other factor. Eligible persons may also call to set up an appointment by dialing 413-582-3110.

Once your appointment is scheduled, COVID-19 Vaccine Clinics are primarily held at our main campus in Leeds, and our Community-Based Outpatient Clinics in Springfield, Worcester, Greenfield, Fitchburg, and Pittsfield. VA Central Western Mass has also held multiple clinics in the community, and plans to continue to coordinate with municipal and state agencies to bring vaccines when they are available to community sites. To maintain continued health and safety during the pandemic, please **do not** visit a VA facility for a COVID-19 vaccine without first setting up an appointment, or if the venue specifically states they are accepting 'walk-ins." While walk-in clinics have been held, vaccine supplies and enrollment coordination require that appointments primarily be used to effectively administer and track the vaccines.

To receive updates on VACWM's vaccine efforts, please visit our Facebook page: https://www.facebook.com/VACWMASS. You can also sign up with the VA's 'Keep Me Informed" tool here: www.va.gov/health-care/covid-19-vaccine/stay-informed.

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For more information, contact VA Central Western Mass. Public Affairs Officer Andre Bowser by calling 413-333-6602, or e-mail <u>Andre Bowser@VA.gov</u>.