

VAU.S. Department
of Veterans Affairs

Press Release

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VA NorCal offers hope of recovery to sexual trauma and harassment survivors

Veterans can access care from home using telehealth technology during pandemic

MATHER, Calif. - [VA NorCal Health Care System](#) has been at the forefront in delivering Military Sexual Trauma (MST), sexual harassment, and domestic violence support to Veterans across Northern California. It is important Veterans know that those programs remain available even amid COVID-19 social distancing requirements.

“Our goal is nothing short of eliminating sexual harassment, sexual assault, and domestic violence, not only in our health care facilities, but across the Northern California Veteran community,” said VA NorCal Director David Stockwell. “We didn’t hit pause on that goal because of the COVID-19 pandemic. Instead, we’re finding ways to ensure Veterans can still access support even as they practice social distancing.”

Using [telehealth](#) technology, VA NorCal is able to deliver counseling and resource support to Veterans in their homes over the phone or on their computer, tablet, or smartphone.

- **Domestic Violence:** As many as 1 in 4 women and 1 in 7 men are impacted by intimate partner (domestic) violence in their lifetimes, and Veterans may be at a higher risk than the civilian population. Understanding this need, VA NorCal has joined other VA facilities in launching the Intimate Partner Violence (IPV) Assistance Program. To explore services and resources, e-mail Diane.Weber@va.gov or visit <https://www.socialwork.va.gov/IPV/Index.asp>.
- **Military Sexual Trauma (MST):** VA NorCal provides free, confidential counseling and treatment to male and female Veterans for mental and physical health conditions related to experiences of sexual assault or harassment that occurred while a Veteran was serving in the U.S. Armed Forces. Call 925-372-2554 or visit <https://www.northerncalifornia.va.gov/services/mst.asp>.

For more information about VA NorCal’s use of virtual health care technology in response to the COVID-19 pandemic, please e-mail Will Martin, Chief of Public Affairs, at William.Martin6@va.gov.

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