



REVEILLE

COVID-19 Temporarily Closes Veterans Upward Bound

The COVID-19 pandemic has disrupted not only our program, but the whole of Western Kentucky University. Measures were undertaken beginning Monday, March 23, as WKU began transitioning from face-to-face classroom delivery to an alternate delivery format through Sunday, April 5. All students who were planning to graduate in May were assured that they would be able to do so. As this is a very fluid situation, at this time it is not known when our program will reopen for normal business. Every staff member can be reached by email, particularly Michelle Shutt, since she is our veterans' advisor. The email addresses can be found on the masthead on page 2 of this newsletter.

The university developed a WKU COVID-19 Taskforce that monitors the health crisis as it evolves. We will share updates and any further alterations to campus operations on our Facebook page. For the present, Gov. Andy Beshear has advised the commonwealth's education leaders to keep facilities closed to in-person instruction for the rest of the school year.

The Governor said Kentucky will go through three phases in dealing with coronavirus: sacrifice, planning and patience and perseverance. The Governor said now we are in the planning and patience phase.

"Whether it is shuttering a business temporarily, or if it's that you're not going to work right now because of what has happened with this virus," he said. "Whether it is changes to your life, your children not going to school, we have shown that we can pass the test of sacrifice."

The Governor said the phased health care services reopening is the first under the Healthy at Work initiative he introduced Tuesday, April 21 to help businesses reopen safely when the time is right. The initiative set out public health benchmarks for reopening Kentucky's economy. These benchmarks closely follow the White House's Guidelines for Reopening America. Gov. Beshear said a foundational basis for safely reopening the economy requires a massive scaling up of testing capacity in the commonwealth.

The Governor is asking all Kentuckians to continue to fight the spread of the virus by practicing social distancing and staying healthy at home. Gov. Beshear says these efforts have the potential to save the lives of as many as 11,000 Kentuckians.

The U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) encourages people to follow these steps to prevent illness. Kentuckians who want advice can call the state hotline at **800-722-5725** or call their local health care provider.



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VA PARTNERS WITH TREASURY DEPARTMENT TO DELIVER ECONOMIC IMPACT PAYMENTS TO VETERANS AND SURVIVORS

The U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) announced today it is working directly with the Internal Revenue Service (IRS) and U.S. Treasury Department to ensure delivery of 'Economic Impact Payments' to Veterans and survivors who receive Compensation and Pension (C&P) benefit payments from VA without additional paperwork or IRS filings.

The 'Economic Impact Payments,' authorized by the Treasury Department under the *2020 Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act*, will be issued automatically to recipients of non-taxable VA benefits who did not file annual income tax returns for 2018 or 2019. VA and the IRS have been collaborating since the passage of the CARES Act to ensure Veterans receive their EIP.

Economic Impact Payments will be automatic for non-tax filing VA beneficiaries. For VA beneficiaries who filed a Form 1040 for 2018 or 2019, those payments will also be automatic. No further action is needed. They can track the status of their payments on the Get My Payment tool on IRS.gov. For non-tax filing VA beneficiaries, please note their information will be loaded on this tool within the next few weeks.

For VA beneficiaries who didn't file a tax return in 2018 or 2019 and have a dependent, there is a special step they need to take, and the sooner the better. They should visit the **Non-Filer: Enter Payment Info Here** tool on IRS.gov. By quickly taking steps to enter information on the IRS website about them and their qualifying children, they can receive the \$500 per dependent child payment in addition to their \$1,200 individual payment.

VA recognizes that many non-tax filing beneficiaries have already begun using the IRS' EIP payment portal to provide the necessary data to IRS to receive their EIP. There will be no interruption to payments being processed using the IRS portal, and Veterans with internet access are encouraged to continue providing information and track their EIP through the IRS portal. For those who do not have access, or choose not to use the IRS portal, their EIP will be processed without further action on their part.

For more information on CARES Act 'Economic Impact Payments,' visit: <https://www.irs.gov/newsroom/economic-impact-payments-what-you-need-to-know>.

For Veterans, their families, caregivers and survivors latest VA updates on COVID-19: [VA.gov/coronavirus](https://va.gov/coronavirus)