



NEWS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

March 16, 2020 (Updated March 23, 2020)

Alabama Department of Veterans Affairs Implements Public Access Policy to County Veteran Service Offices

MONTGOMERY, Ala. – The Alabama Department of Veterans Affairs (ADVA) will temporarily restrict public access to the state’s county veteran service offices from March 16 to April 6 as a precautionary measure to the coronavirus (COVID-19) crisis. The ADVA will continue operating the county veteran service offices with essential staff to provide ongoing services to veterans, their family members, and caregivers. The county offices will offer services via telephone, facsimile, and other means of communication such as email and texting.

On Friday, the ADVA announced a change to its visitation policy at the state’s four veterans homes, which temporarily restricts routine visitations to medically-necessary visits by outside healthcare personnel and/or visits by family members to terminally ill residents in their final days. Routine visits by non-employees, to include work conducted by volunteers, have been temporarily suspended at the homes.

The Alabama State Veterans Memorial Cemetery at Spanish Fort will continue to provide burial services with limited access. Committal services will be limited to no more than 10 immediate family members.

Additionally, volunteer veteran honor guard teams will be restricted until the state of emergency is lifted. Military funeral honors conducted by military personnel will remain open at this time and services will be at the discretion of the branch of service.

The cemetery will remain open to the public; however, visitors are urged to follow local travel restrictions. Visitors should expect that certain parts of the cemetery normally open to the public will be closed such as restrooms and administrative buildings.

ADVA Commissioner Kent Davis said the department's policy for restricted visitation at the state's veterans homes and preventive measures taken by the county veteran service offices and state veterans memorial cemetery is in the best interest of public health and safety.

For more information about ADVA's response to the COVID-19 crisis, visit the department's website at www.va.alabama.gov.