**How to Enroll in the Agent Orange Registration**

**What: Enrollment in agent Orange Registration**

**Service Officer Notes:** At the Members meeting recently, I talked briefly about Agent Orange Registration and how it is important that all Vietnam Vets who qualify get registered which includes a free health screening. In my research on how to actually do this, I have talked to a VA Environmental Health Coordinator and he assured me that going through your VA Health Coordinator is the best way to get enrolled in the Registry and set up your free health check. Information on diseases and qualification is below. If you are not sure if you qualify, please go see the Coordinators as you could be wrong and miss out on some benefits. In addition, if you attempted to do this a few years ago, understand that laws have changed, the VA has changed, and policies have changed. While you may not have qualified years ago, you may qualify now

As the different Service organizations have lobbied Congress to get this done, we have seen an expansion in the number of diseases that the VA is considering presumptive. They now include the below:

*Veterans' Diseases Associated with Agent Orange*

*VA assumes that certain diseases can be related to a Veteran's qualifying military service. We call these "presumptive diseases."*

*VA has recognized certain cancers and other health problems as presumptive diseases associated with* [*exposure to Agent Orange or other herbicides*](https://www.publichealth.va.gov/exposures/agentorange/locations/index.asp) *during military service. Veterans and their survivors may be eligible for benefits for these diseases.*

* [***Prostate Cancer***](https://www.publichealth.va.gov/exposures/agentorange/conditions/prostate_cancer.asp) *Cancer of the prostate; one of the most common cancers among men*
* [***Respiratory Cancers***](https://www.publichealth.va.gov/exposures/agentorange/conditions/respiratory_cancers.asp)***(includes lung cancer)*** *Cancers of the lung, larynx, trachea, and bronchus*
* [***AL Amyloidosis***](https://www.publichealth.va.gov/exposures/agentorange/conditions/al_amyloidosis.asp) *A rare disease caused when an abnormal protein, amyloid, enters tissues or organs*
* [***Chronic B-cell Leukemias***](https://www.publichealth.va.gov/exposures/agentorange/conditions/bcell-leukemia.asp) *A type of cancer which affects white blood cells*
* [***Chloracne***](https://www.publichealth.va.gov/exposures/agentorange/conditions/chloracne.asp)***(or similar acneform disease)*** *A skin condition that occurs soon after exposure to chemicals and looks like common forms of acne seen in teenagers. Under VA's rating regulations, it must be at least 10 percent disabling within one year of exposure to herbicides.*
* [***Diabetes Mellitus Type 2***](https://www.publichealth.va.gov/exposures/agentorange/conditions/diabetes.asp) *A disease characterized by high blood sugar levels resulting from the body’s inability to respond properly to the hormone insulin*
* [***Hodgkin's Disease***](https://www.publichealth.va.gov/exposures/agentorange/conditions/hodgkins.asp) *A malignant lymphoma (cancer) characterized by progressive enlargement of the lymph nodes, liver, and spleen, and by progressive anemia*
* [***Ischemic Heart Disease***](https://www.publichealth.va.gov/exposures/agentorange/conditions/ischemicheartdisease.asp) *A disease characterized by a reduced supply of blood to the heart, that leads to chest pain*
* [***Multiple Myeloma***](https://www.publichealth.va.gov/exposures/agentorange/conditions/multiple_myeloma.asp) *A cancer of plasma cells, a type of white blood cell in bone marrow*
* [***Non-Hodgkin's Lymphoma***](https://www.publichealth.va.gov/exposures/agentorange/conditions/nonhodgkinslymphoma.asp) *A group of cancers that affect the lymph glands and other lymphatic tissue*
* [***Parkinson's Disease***](https://www.publichealth.va.gov/exposures/agentorange/conditions/parkinsonsdisease.asp) *A progressive disorder of the nervous system that affects muscle movement*
* [***Peripheral Neuropathy, Early-Onset***](https://www.publichealth.va.gov/exposures/agentorange/conditions/peripheral_neuropathy.asp) *A nervous system condition that causes numbness, tingling, and motor weakness. Under VA's rating regulations, it must be at least 10 percent disabling within one year of herbicide exposure.*
* [***Porphyria Cutanea Tarda***](https://www.publichealth.va.gov/exposures/agentorange/conditions/porphyria-cutanea-tarda.asp) *A disorder characterized by liver dysfunction and by thinning and blistering of the skin in sun-exposed areas. Under VA's rating regulations, it must be at least 10 percent disabling within one year of exposure to herbicides.*
* [***Soft Tissue Sarcomas***](https://www.publichealth.va.gov/exposures/agentorange/conditions/soft-tissue-sarcoma.asp)***(other than osteosarcoma, chondrosarcoma, Kaposi's sarcoma, or mesothelioma)*** *A group of different types of cancers in body tissues such as muscle, fat, blood and lymph vessels, and connective tissues*

*Children with birth defects*

*VA presumes certain* [*birth defects in children of Vietnam and Korea Veterans*](https://www.publichealth.va.gov/exposures/agentorange/birth-defects/index.asp) *are associated with Veterans' qualifying military service.*

*Veterans with Lou Gehrig's Disease*

*VA presumes Lou Gehrig's Disease (amyotrophic lateral sclerosis or ALS) diagnosed in* ***all*** *Veterans who had 90 days or more continuous active military service is related to their service, although ALS is not related to Agent Orange exposure.*

**Web Sites:** [**https://www.publichealth.va.gov/exposures/agentorange/index.asp**](https://www.publichealth.va.gov/exposures/agentorange/index.asp)

**Who Qualifies:**

*You can get an Agent Orange Registry health exam if you served in Vietnam between 1962 and 1975 for any length of time, or if you served in any of these ways:*

* *On smaller river patrol and swift boats that were on the inland waterways of Vietnam (also known as “Brown Water Veterans”),* ***or***
* *In Korea in a unit in or near the Demilitarized Zone (DMZ) anytime between April 1, 1968, and August 31, 1971,* ***or***
* *In Thailand (U.S. Air Force Veterans) on Royal Thai Air Force (RTAF) bases near U-Tapao, Ubon, Nakhon Phanom, Udorn, Takhli, Korat, and Don Muang near the air base perimeter anytime between February 28, 1961, and May 7, 1975,* ***or***
* *In Thailand (U.S. Army Veterans) as perimeter security personnel on RTAF bases in Thailand anytime between February 28, 1961, and May 7, 1975,* ***or***
* *In Thailand (U.S. Army Veterans) on some small Army installations in Thailand anytime between February 28, 1961, and May 7, 1975—if you were a member of a military police (MP) unit or assigned a job with duty placing you at or near the base perimeter,* ***or***
* *In other locations, but you had contact with herbicides during a military operation or while testing, transporting, or spraying herbicides for military purposes*

[*See the list of ships that had contact with Agent Orange*](https://www.publichealth.va.gov/exposures/agentorange/shiplist/index.asp)*.*[*Learn about herbicide tests and storage outside Vietnam*](https://www.publichealth.va.gov/exposures/agentorange/locations/tests-storage/index.asp)*.*

**Information:**

***Agent Orange Registry Health Exam for Veterans***

*If you think you had contact with Agent Orange, a toxic chemical used to clear trees and plants during the Vietnam War, or other herbicides while serving in the military, you can request a VA Agent Orange Registry health exam. Even if you don’t have a known illness, the exam could alert you to illnesses that may be related to contact with herbicides. By being part of this registry, you’re also helping your fellow Veterans by giving us information so we can better understand and serve those affected by Agent Orange–related illnesses.*

***How do I get these benefits?***

*To schedule your exam, contact your local VA Environmental Health Coordinator. If you qualify, you won’t have to pay anything for this exam. It’s free for qualified Veterans.* [*Find a VA Environmental Health Coordinator near you*](https://www.publichealth.va.gov/exposures/coordinators.asp)*.*

***What should I expect at the exam?***

*The exam will include:*

* *Your history of contact with Agent Orange and other herbicides*
* *Your health history (including any major illnesses or surgeries you may have had)*
* *A physical exam*
* *Medical tests that may be needed (like blood tests, X-rays, or other imaging tests)*

*A VA health care provider will go over your exam and test results with you. You’ll also get a letter with the details of your results.*

***What else should I know about the exam?***

*Please note that:*

* *This exam isn’t a VA claim exam (also known as a C&P exam). And you don’t need to have this exam to get other VA benefits. To get disability benefits, you’ll need to apply.* [*Apply for disability benefits now*](https://www.vets.gov/disability-benefits/apply/)*.*
* *You don’t need to sign up for the VA health care system to get a Registry exam.*
* *The exam is based on your memory of service, not on your military records.*
* *The exam will not confirm if you had contact with Agent Orange.*
* *You can get another free Registry exam if you have a new illness in the future.*
* *Your family members can’t get an Agent Orange Registry health exam. The exam is only for qualified Veterans.*

 **POCs:** Local VA Environmental Health Coordinators:

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