



**Department of
Veterans Affairs**

NY Harbor Healthcare System
Public Affairs Office

800 Poly Place
Brooklyn, NY 11209

www.brooklyn.va.gov

NEWS RELEASE

5.21.2013

Contact: Jennifer Sammartino, 718-630-2804, jennifer.sammartino@va.gov

Manhattan VA Medical Center Campus Now Serving Veterans with Full Array of Services

Manhattan, NY – The recovery effort at VA New York Harbor Healthcare System’s Manhattan facility is now complete after being temporarily closed for repairs in the aftermath of Hurricane Sandy.

“I am thrilled to announce that the Manhattan VA is back to full operating capacity,” said Martina A. Parauda, Director of the medical center, noting that inpatient and outpatient services are back, in addition to the Emergency Department and Operating Rooms.

Over the past seven months, the hospital has undergone extensive work and replacement of major utilities, including steam, electrical, elevator systems, fire suppression and alarms, medical gas and oxygen to make it safe to serve Veteran patients.

Located at 423 East 23rd Street, the VA Medical Center sustained extensive flood damage during the storm. Flooding from the storm resulted in the catastrophic failure of all the major utility systems that service the building, including electrical, heating, fire protection, elevator, water pumping, and information technology support structure. More than 150,000 square feet of outpatient and support areas were destroyed as well as the Magnetic Resonance Imaging (MRI) unit and other clinical equipment. The recovery effort includes restoring utilities to the building and setting up outpatient clinics. The potential for mold has been mitigated due to intense cleaning and removal of damaged walls, floors, ceilings and insulation.

“The staff and Veterans have been tremendously supportive during this time and as promised, we are back to serve,” Ms. Parauda said.

While the facility was undergoing necessary renovations, Veterans were receiving care at the Brooklyn and Bronx VA Medical Centers, St. Albans, Queens VA facility and Community Based Outpatient Clinics in Manhattan, Brooklyn and Staten Island. In addition, mobile clinics were also located at the Manhattan VA Medical Center in the immediate aftermath of the storm. Outpatient services were restored at the site in March.

Veterans are being contacted to make appointments. If a Veteran needs to make an appointment, please call Centralized Scheduling at 1-877-877-9267.

###