

VA



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of Veterans Affairs

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News Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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VA New York Harbor Offers Pfizer-BioNTech Vaccine to Veterans 75 years and Older

NEW YORK — This week, the VA New York Harbor Healthcare System began offering the Pfizer-BioNTech COVID-19 vaccine to Veteran outpatients 75 years and older in accordance with the CDC’s guidelines.

All Veterans 75 years and older may contact our centralized scheduling team at **1-877-877-9267** to make an appointment directly.

Monday morning, 92-year-old Emiliana Ventura, a former pediatric RN with the Army Nurse Corps, became the first outpatient to receive the Pfizer-BioNTech COVID-19 vaccine at Harbor.

“My mother strived to be a mentor to others through her career as a registered nurse and educator and is happy to continue serving,” Cynthia Ventura, Emiliana’s daughter said.

Ms. Ventura joined the Army Nurse Corps in 1951 and served as an elementary school nurse at Ft. Buchanan, Puerto Rico, until her retirement in 1989.

She resided in Puerto Rico with her husband of 67 years, retired Lt. Col. Miguel A. Ventura-Mercado –who was a Veteran of both the Korean and Vietnam Wars – until he tragically passed away during the early stages of the pandemic last spring.

She had been by her husband’s side as his primary caregiver for close to a decade.

Once travel restrictions were lifted, Cynthia helped her mother relocate from Puerto Rico to New York City where her immediate family could be closer to her.

Upon returning stateside, Ms. Ventura was enrolled in Home-Based Primary Care with New York Harbor.

“She is very proud to receive the vaccine and show that there is nothing to fear. I would like to thank New York Harbor and their exceptional staff for the great care my mother received,” Cynthia said.

Photo Cutline:



1. Emiliana Ventura and her husband, Lt. Col. Miguel A. Ventura-Mercado (ret.)



2. Cynthia Ventura (left) reassuring her mother, Emiliana Ventura (right).



3. Emiliana Ventura receiving the Pfizer-BioNTech COVID-19 vaccine.