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Press Release

VA Boston Healthcare System
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West Roxbury, MA 02132

Scituate Native Keeps Urgent Supplies & Equipment Moving at VA Boston During COVID-19

Scituate, MA — When David Pina, Warehouseman at the Brockton Campus of VA Boston and Scituate resident began working at the VA seven years ago, he never could have imagined the extreme importance shipping, receiving and distributing of goods and equipment would be, especially during COVID-19.

Pina is part of the warehouse team that receives equipment vital to the fight against COVID on the hospital wards, such as ventilators and IPADs for communicating with relatives. He also keeps track of the numerous orders for personal protective equipment (PPE) coming into the warehouse and being distributed to the Brockton, Jamaica Plain or West Roxbury campuses where Covid positive patients receive care.

These items; surgical masks, N95's, gowns, head and foot coverings, gloves, and face shields are all PPE staff need in varying amounts to perform their daily duties. Veterans as well need masks in the hospital where necessary, to keep staff and other patients safe.

"I am a Veteran myself and I work at VA Boston because I can give back to other Veterans, especially when times are tough like this and I am able to help," said Pina. "Working for Veterans when they can't, is not the best thing to do, it's the right thing to do."

The equipment and PPE protocols and processes designed by the incident Command Center have provided the framework for care and clinical decision making related to COVID across the healthcare system. Tracking the usage of the PPE is as important of ensuring clinical wards have the amount and type of PPE and equipment necessary to see them through this pandemic.

Supplies governed by Pina and the warehouse team are also used in the testing of Veterans in community and state-run homes such as Chelsea Soldiers Home, and Silver Crest home in Taunton.

"Testing Veterans in our own facilities and communities alike is a mission the VA takes seriously. COVID Testing helps us keep all Veterans safe from exposure, and from exposing others to the virus," said Pallas Wahl Public Affairs, VA Boston. "Without enough swabs, PPE and equipment for testing, the testing would be slower, and infection could be higher. Without someone being responsible for the intake and output of these needed supplies, we may not be as successful in flattening the curve," said Wahl.

