



U.S. Department
of Veterans Affairs

South Texas Veterans Health Care System
7400 Merton Minter Boulevard
San Antonio TX 78229
www.va.gov

December 10, 2020

In Reply Refer To: 003C/PO

FOIA Request No.:21-01281-F

Louis Amestoy
The Kerrville Daily Times
429 Jefferson St.
Kerrville, TX 78028

VIA Email: louis.amestoy@dailytimes.com

Dear Mr. Amestoy,

This letter is the initial agency decision to your 11/25/2020, request under the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA), 5 U.S.C. § 552, submitted to the VHA 671 - South Texas Veterans HCS FOIA Office for copies of the following records:

We would like an accounting of all positive COVID-19 tests of residents and staff of the Kerrville Veterans Affairs Medical Center in Kerrville, Texas. We believe in the public interest and public safety of our community it is relevant that the community should understand how many veterans have been sickened by COVID-19, in what units it has spread and how many residents have been transferred to the San Antonio area, because they could not be cared for in Kerrville. We also request confirmation on the number of fatalities involving veterans at the medical center from or from complications related to COVID-19.

The Quality Management Service, and the Occupational Health Clinic physician conducted a search for data responsive to your request. The search was conducted by utilizing the search criteria as outlined in your request. At the conclusion of the search, the following information was determined to be responsive to your request.

Re: the number of all positive COVID-19 test of residents and staff.

- 1) Residents- 12
- 2) Staff – 13

Re: how many residents have been transferred to the San Antonio area, because they could not be cared for in Kerrville – 12

Re: number of fatalities – 4

All information is provided in its entirety. No portions of the requested records have been withheld either in whole or in part. This concludes VHA 671 - South Texas Veterans HCS's response to your FOIA request.

Please be advised you may appeal this full grant response to:

Office of the General Counsel (024)
Department of Veterans Affairs
810 Vermont Avenue, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20420
Email: ogcfoiaappeals@va.gov

If you should choose to file an appeal, your appeal must be postmarked or electronically transmitted no later than ninety (90) calendar days from the date of this letter. Please include a copy of this letter with your written appeal and clearly state why you disagree with the determinations set forth in this response.

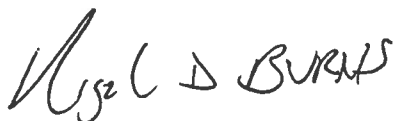
You may also seek assistance and/or dispute resolution services for any other aspect of your FOIA request from VHA's FOIA Public Liaison and/or Office of Government Information Services (OGIS) as provided below:

VHA FOIA Public Liaison:
Email Address: vhafoia2@va.gov
Phone Number: (877) 461-5038

Office of Government Information Services (OGIS)
Email: ogis@nara.gov
Fax: (202) 741-5769
Mailing address:
Office of Government Information Services
National Archives and Records Administration
8601 Adelphi Road
College Park, MD 20740-6001

If you need any further assistance or would like to discuss any aspect of your request, please do not hesitate to contact me at (210) 616-8286 or via email at 671FOIA@va.gov.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Nigel D Burns".

Nigel Burns
VHA 671 - South Texas Veterans HCS FOIA Officer