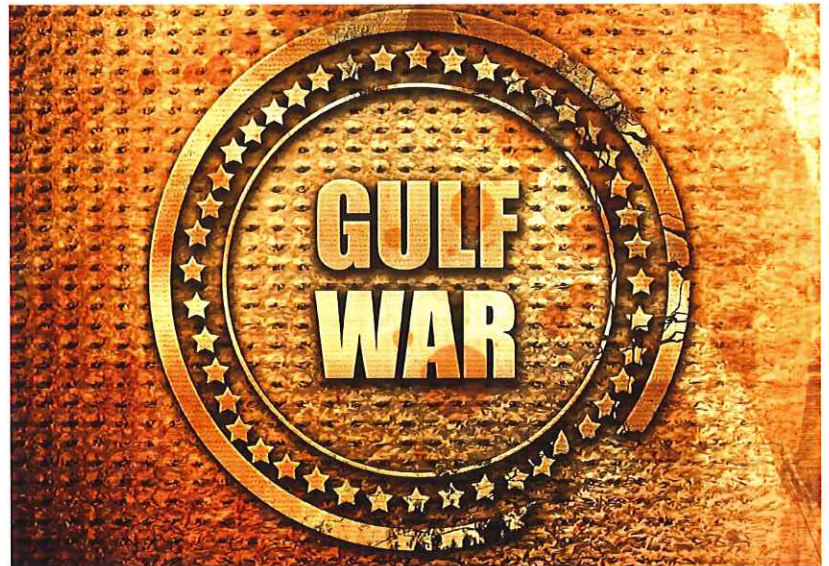


# PACT ACT

## Infectious Diseases and Gulf War Veterans

VA presumes the following infectious diseases are related to military service in the **Southwest Asia theater of operations** during the Gulf War August 2, 1990 to present and in Afghanistan on or after September 19, 2001.

Veterans must have the diseases within the time frames shown above and have a current disability as a result of that disease in order to receive disability compensation.



## VA Benefits

Gulf War Veterans may be eligible for a variety of VA benefits, including a Gulf War Registry health exam, the Airborne Hazards and Open Burn Pit Registry, health care, and disability compensation for diseases related to military service. Their dependents and survivors also may be eligible for benefits. Gulf War Veterans are eligible for presumptive conditions due to exposure to airborne hazards.

Find these conditions in the Health Care and Benefits section of the Airborne Hazards and Burn Pit Exposures web page - <https://www.publichealth.va.gov/exposures/burnpits/index.asp>.

## The following infectious diseases:

- **Malaria**  
An infectious disease caused by a parasite transmitted by mosquitoes. Symptoms include chills, fever, and sweats. It must be at least 10 percent disabling within one year from the date of military separation or at a time when standard or accepted treatises indicate that the incubation period began during a qualifying period of military service.
- **Brucellosis**  
A bacterial disease with symptoms such as profuse sweating and joint and muscle pain. The illness may be chronic and persist for years. It must be at least 10 percent disabling within one year from the date of military separation.
- **Campylobacter Jejuni**  
A disease with symptoms such as abdominal pain, diarrhea, and fever. It must be at least 10 percent disabling within one year from the date of military separation.
- **Coxiella Burnetii (Q Fever)**  
A bacterial disease with symptoms such as fever, severe headache, and gastrointestinal problems such as nausea and diarrhea. In chronic cases, the illness may cause inflammation of the heart. It must be at least 10 percent disabling within one year of the date of military separation.
- **Mycobacterium Tuberculosis**  
An illness that primarily affects the lungs and causes symptoms such as chest pain, persistent cough (sometimes bloody), weight loss and fever.
- **Nontyphoid Salmonella**  
A condition characterized by symptoms such as nausea, vomiting, and diarrhea. It must

be at least 10 percent disabling within one year of the date of military separation.

- **Shigella**  
A condition characterized by symptoms such as fever, nausea, vomiting, and diarrhea. It must be at least 10 percent disabling within one year of the date of military separation.
- **Visceral Leishmaniasis**  
A parasitic disease characterized by symptoms such as fever, weight loss, enlargement of the spleen and liver, and anemia.
- **West Nile Virus**  
A disease spread by mosquitoes characterized by symptoms such as fever, headache, muscle pain or weakness, nausea, and vomiting. Symptoms may range from mild to severe. It must be at least 10 percent disabling within one year from the date of military separation.

## Research on infectious diseases and Gulf War Veterans

Based on a report, Gulf War and Health: Volume 5 Infectious Disease, from Health and Medicine Division (HMD) the Secretary of the VA established a presumption of service connection for nine infectious diseases related to qualifying military service in the Gulf War, Iraq and Afghanistan. The diseases are brucellosis, campylobacter jejuni, coxiella burnetii (Q fever), malaria, mycobacterium tuberculosis, nontyphoid salmonella, shigella, visceral leishmaniasis and West Nile virus.

### [View more research on health effects of Gulf War service :](https://www.publichealth.va.gov/exposures/gulfwar/research.asp)

- <https://www.publichealth.va.gov/exposures/gulfwar/research.asp>

Go to <https://www.va.gov/resources/the-pact-act-and-your-va-benefits/>  
Or scan the QR code with your cell phone camera to go to the website above.

