

“A HEROES THANKS” COVID-19 VACCINE APPRECIATION PROMOTION Q&A

V3 / 06.28.21

Q: What is “A Heroes Thanks?”

A: “A Heroes Thanks” is the new vaccine appreciation promotion from the State of Washington designed specifically for people receiving a recommended COVID-19 vaccination from a Veterans Affairs, Department of Defense or National Guard health care facility. It is similar in concept to the state’s “Shot of a Lifetime” promotion but does have specific differences.

Q: What is the purpose of the promotion?

A: “A Heroes Thanks” is designed as both a “thank you” to people who have received their COVID-19 vaccination, and to help increase vaccination rates among vaccine-eligible individuals who have not yet received theirs. When they get it from a Veterans Affairs, Department of Defense or National Guard health care facility they will be eligible to be in the drawing.

Q: What are the dates of the promotion?

A: While rules for “A Heroes Thanks” are being announced today, there is not an official “start date” for promotion eligibility. Drawings will take place on July 20, July 27, and August 3, 2021, so people who have not yet received a COVID-19 vaccination should do so quickly in order to have their vaccine recorded and/or in order to opt-in before the final drawing. As drawings begin on July 20, the sooner people are vaccinated, the more opportunities they will have to win.

Q: How is “A Heroes Thanks” different from the “Shot of a Lifetime” promotion?

A: Both programs are based on the same concept that eligible individuals who have received at least one dose of a recommended COVID-19 vaccine will be entered into drawings for cash and merchandise prizes. Drawing dates, number of drawings, specific prizes, method of entry, and promotion rules are different. Details for “A Heroes Thanks” can be found [here](#), and details for “Shot of a Lifetime” can be found [here](#).

Q: Why was a second promotion needed?

A: Data on vaccinations that took place at a Veterans Affairs, Department of Defense or National Guard health care facility in the state was not automatically entered into the Washington State Immunization Information System, which was the basis for the “Shot of a Lifetime” promotion. As such, a second, separate promotion needed to be developed to ensure that our state’s active military personnel, veterans, staff and/or family members who were vaccinated through these facilities would be eligible to win prizes like the other promotion.

Q: How does the promotion work?

A: There will be three drawings in the “A Heroes Thanks” vaccine appreciation promotion, the first two of which will be for \$100,000 each, with the final drawing having

a top prize of \$250,000. The first two drawings each also feature Amazon and Washington State Parks gift cards as prizes.

Veterans, National Guard members, and other individuals who received a vaccination at a VA facility or National Guard installation are automatically entered into "A Heroes Thanks." They do not need to do anything else. If they are selected for a prize, a representative from the VA or National Guard will reach out to determine whether they would like to claim the prize.

Military personnel, military retirees, and other individuals who received a vaccination at a DOD health care facility must use an online portal to opt in if they want to be entered into "A Heroes Thanks." Information on how to access the online portal will be sent directly to these individuals and is available at the DOD facility where the vaccination was received. The cutoff time to opt in is 6:59 a.m. the Monday before each drawing.

All winners must be 18 years old or older on the date of the drawing and must be Washington residents or on active duty permanent assignment orders serving in the State of Washington.

As drawings begin on July 20, the sooner people are vaccinated, the more opportunities they will have to win.

Q: When will the drawings take place?

A: Dates for the first two drawings of \$100,000 each will be July 20 and July 27, 2021. The final drawing for the \$250,000 prize will be August 3, 2021.

Q: What are the prizes for this promotion?

A: A total of \$450,000 in cash prizes will be given away as part of "A Heroes Thanks." In addition, the July 20 and July 27 drawings each will feature five \$250 Amazon gift cards and five \$100 Washington State Parks gift cards as additional prizes to be awarded.

Q: Why are the prize amounts for "A Heroes Thanks" different than in "Shot of a Lifetime?"

A: Prize levels were largely set based upon the number of potential eligible individuals for each promotion, which impact the odds of winning. As of June 25, 2021, more than 4,000,000 Washington residents were in the Washington State Immunization Information System, which is what "Shot of a Lifetime" uses as its data source, which is substantially higher than the number of people who have been vaccinated through military health care facilities.

Q: Can people be entered into both "Shot of a Lifetime" and "A Heroes Thanks?"

A: Generally, people will be entered into either "Shot of a Lifetime" or "A Heroes Thanks" since the data set for each promotion is based upon where a person received their vaccination, and since most people get their first and second shots at the same facility. However, there are potentially circumstances where someone got one shot at, for example, a VA facility, and then got their other shot at a civilian clinic, so there are some rare chances that a person could be in the data sets for both drawings.

Q: If military personnel, veterans, family members, etc., got their shot somewhere other than a VA, DOD, or National Guard facility, which promotion are they eligible for?

A: Regardless of a person's military or civilian status, any eligible individual who got their vaccination at a facility that reports data to the Washington State Immunization Information System would participate in the "Shot of a Lifetime" promotion. Likewise, regardless of a person's military or civilian status, any eligible individual who got their vaccination at a Veterans Affairs, Department of Defense or National Guard health care facility would participate in "A Heroes Thanks." Each promotion is based on where a person received their vaccine and since most people get their first and second shots at the same facility, they would be entered into one promotion or the other. However, there are potentially circumstances where someone got one shot at, for example, a VA facility, and then got their other shot at a civilian clinic, so there are some rare chances that a person could be in the data sets for both drawings.

Q: What if a person is a Washington resident and military personnel who received a vaccination from a VA, DOD or National Guard facility in another state?

A: "A Heroes Thanks" is open to Washington residents and persons under permanent assignment orders to a location in Washington who also received their vaccination at a facility in Washington. All data for the drawings is based on where the vaccinations took place, so people vaccinated outside of Washington State would not be eligible for this promotion.

Q: Who is eligible for the promotion?

A: Eligibility for "A Heroes Thanks" is available for Washington residents or persons under permanent assignment orders to a location in Washington, their beneficiaries and/or caregivers, and Department of Veterans Affairs or National Guard staff, who have received at least one dose of a recommended COVID-19 vaccination from a Veterans Affairs health care facility or National Guard health care facility and are 18 years old or older on the date of the drawing.

Eligibility also is available for members of the military, military staff and vendors, or family of a military member, who have received at least one dose of a recommended COVID-19 vaccination from a Department of Defense health care facility, who have opted into the promotion, who are Washington residents or persons under permanent assignment orders to a location in Washington, and are 18 years old or older on the date of the drawing.

Q: Is anyone who has received a vaccine at any time eligible?

A: While the promotion is designed to encourage eligible individuals who have not yet been vaccinated to get their shot, anyone who has received at least one shot of a COVID-19 vaccine that was administered through a Veterans Affairs, Department of Defense or National Guard health care facility, and who meets the other eligibility requirements, can participate in "A Heroes Thanks" drawings, regardless of when they received their first and/or second dose.

Q: Is anyone NOT eligible?

A: Persons under the age of 18 on the date of the drawing are not eligible to win a prize.

Incarcerated persons are not eligible to win a prize. For purposes of this promotion, “incarcerated” means a person committed to total confinement in any state, federal, city, or county correctional institution or facility on the date of the drawing.

Employees of the Washington State Department of Health, employees of the Governor’s Office, employees of Washington Technology Solutions (WaTech), employees of Washington’s Lottery, members of the Lottery Commission, and any spouse, child, brother, sister, or parent residing as a member of the same household with such employee or Commission member, are not eligible to win a prize.

Q: How do people enter the drawings? Are they required to opt-in?

A: Veterans, National Guard members, and other individuals who received a vaccination at a VA facility or National Guard installation are automatically entered into “A Heroes Thanks.” They do not need to do anything else. If they are selected for a prize, a representative from the VA or National Guard will reach out to determine whether they would like to claim the prize.

Military personnel, military retirees, and other individuals who received a vaccination at a DOD health care facility must use an online portal to opt in if they want to be entered into “A Heroes Thanks.” Information on how to access the online portal will be sent directly to these individuals and is available at the DOD health care facility where the vaccination was received. The cutoff time to opt in is 6:59 a.m. the Monday before each drawing.

All winners must be Washington residents or on active duty permanent assignment orders serving in the State of Washington.

Q: Is there a deadline for opting-in to the promotion?

A: The cutoff for new opt-in requests from those individuals who received their vaccine through a DOD facility is 6:59 a.m. on the Monday preceding a Tuesday drawing.

Q: How can people check to see if they entered?

A: Veterans can use My HealthVet to check their VA immunization records, including COVID-19 vaccination, [here](#).

Military personnel, military retirees, and other individuals who received a vaccination at a DOD health care facility must use an online portal to opt in if they want to be entered into “A Heroes Thanks” and will receive a confirmation on screen when they complete the opt-in process.

Q: What is the process for administering the drawings and contacting winners?

A: As vaccination data is coming from three different sources (Veterans Affairs, National Guard, and individuals who have opted-in after receiving their shots through a DOD facility), “A Heroes Thanks” includes details specific to each source. The process and timelines are as follows:

- Veterans Affairs will pull a list of vaccinated individuals on Mondays at 8 a.m. and will assign a unique number to each individual. This list of numbers will then be sent to the Department of Health.
- National Guard will pull a list of vaccinated individuals on Mondays at 8 a.m. and will assign a unique number to each individual. This list of numbers will then be sent to the Department of Health.
- Individuals vaccinated via Department of Defense facilities must register for the drawing via the opt-in website. The cutoff for new sign-ups is 6:59 a.m. on Mondays. WaTech, which is administering the website, will pull a list of registrants on Mondays at 8 a.m. After searching for and removing any duplicate entries, WaTech will send the list to the Department of Health.
- Once data from Veterans Affairs, National Guard and DOD is received by the Department of Health, DOH will apply sequential and non-duplicative numbers to the entire data set each Monday.
- On the Tuesday of each drawing, DOH will provide the range of numbers in the entire data set to Washington's Lottery.
- Washington's Lottery will conduct the drawings and identify the winning number for each prize. Winning numbers will be selected using a random number generator. An external auditor will be present for all drawings, as one is with all Washington's Lottery drawings.
- Washington's Lottery will communicate the winning numbers back to DOH, which will match each winning number to the number previously assigned by either the VA or National Guard, or to the name of an individual who opted in via the DOD system.
- If a presumptive winner is from the list provided by the National Guard, DOH will share the number previously assigned by the National Guard, and representatives from the National Guard will contact the presumptive winner. Within 24 hours, the winner's contact information will then be shared with Washington's Lottery. Once the Lottery has verified certain eligibility criteria (e.g., not incarcerated), Lottery officials will contact the winner to claim the prize.
- If a presumptive winner is from the list provided by Veterans Affairs, DOH will share the number previously assigned by the VA, and representatives from the VA will contact the presumptive winner. Within 24 hours, the winner's contact information will then be shared with Washington's Lottery. Once the Lottery has verified certain eligibility criteria (e.g., not incarcerated), Lottery officials will contact the winner to claim the prize.
- If a presumptive winner has opted in via the DOD portal, DOH will share the individual's name with DOD officials, who will confirm within 24 hours that the individual is a current resident of WA, or on active duty status and permanent assignment orders in WA, and over the age of 18. DOD will then share the presumptive winner's contact information with Washington's Lottery. Once the Lottery has verified certain eligibility criteria (e.g., not incarcerated), Lottery officials will contact the winner to claim the prize.
- Presumptive winners will have until 5 p.m. on the Monday following each drawing to claim their prize, which is defined as contact between the presumptive winner and Lottery officials with the confirmed intention to pick up the prize. The timeline for claiming a prize is different than in "Shot of a Lifetime,"

due to the unique constraints of potential military deployment and/or other schedule restrictions.

Q: How will winners be contacted?

A: Presumptive winners will be contacted differently based upon whether they received their vaccine via a National Guard, Veterans Affairs or DOD health care facility, as follows:

- If a presumptive winner is from the list provided by the National Guard, representatives from the National Guard will contact the presumptive winner. Within 24 hours, the winner's contact information will then be shared with Washington's Lottery. Once the Lottery has verified certain eligibility criteria (e.g., not incarcerated), Lottery officials will contact the winner to claim the prize.
- If a presumptive winner is from the list provided by Veterans Affairs, representatives from the VA will contact the presumptive winner. Within 24 hours, the winner's contact information will then be shared with Washington's Lottery. Once the Lottery has verified certain eligibility criteria (e.g., not incarcerated), Lottery officials will contact the winner to claim the prize.
- If a presumptive winner has opted in via the DOD portal, DOD officials will confirm within 24 hours that the individual is a current resident of WA, or on active duty status and permanent assignment orders in WA, and over the age of 18. DOD will then notify Washington's Lottery of the results of the confirmation. Once the Lottery has verified certain eligibility criteria (e.g., not incarcerated), Lottery officials will contact the winner to claim the prize.
- Following initial outreach by the National Guard, VA or DOD, Washington's Lottery will contact a presumptive winner using phone calls, emails and/or text messages based upon the contact information provided to the Lottery.

Q: How will people know the call they get isn't a scam? What information will the Lottery ask for or not ask for when calling winners?

A: As representatives from the VA and National Guard will be making initial outreach, presumptive winners can work with each respective organization to verify authenticity of the contact. Washington's Lottery officials will make initial contact with presumptive winners from those individuals who opted-in via the DOD portal.

Once presumptive winners are contacted by Washington's Lottery, officials will ask to confirm contact information, including home address, email address and phone number so we can send an official prize claim form to the winner for any prize valued at \$600 or more. We will never request personal information like a Social Security Number, mother's maiden name, or bank account information via phone. If people have concerns about any call, email or text message they receive from someone purporting to be from the Lottery, they can contact Washington's Lottery directly at 360-810-2888.

Q: How long does someone have to claim a prize?

A: In order to win a prize, a presumptive winner must meet all eligibility requirements, agree to the terms and conditions of the promotion, and respond by 5 p.m. on the Monday following the drawing confirming their intention to claim a prize.

Q: What happens if a winner is deemed ineligible?

A: If a cash prize winner is disqualified for any reason, an alternate presumptive winner will be identified and notified for cash prizes only.

If a non-cash prize winner is disqualified for any reason, or qualifies but declines a prize, that prize will be added to the prize pool for the final drawing on August 3.

Q: Can people win more than once?

A: No person can win more than one cash prize, but they are eligible for non-cash prizes.

Q: Will the drawings be witnessed and audited?

A: Yes, All drawings will follow the same witness and audit procedure for any drawing conducted by Washington's Lottery.

Q: Is ID required to claim a prize?

A: Presumptive winners must provide proof of current Washington residency. Residency may be proved by presenting either a valid Washington driver's license, a valid Washington identification card, or another form of government-issued identification that includes the person's name, address, and photograph. The State reserves the right, at its sole discretion, to accept alternate proof of Washington residency. Alternatively, presumptive winners may present active duty status and permanent assignment orders to Washington as acceptable residency.

Q: Do you need to show proof of citizenship to claim a prize?

A: "A Heroes Thanks" is designed to help increase vaccination rates among those people who live in Washington State. Whether they are documented citizens or not, many people live, work, move around and engage actively in our communities, and therefore are at risk of contracting COVID-19 if they are not vaccinated. As such, proof of Washington State residency is what is required in order to claim a prize.

Q: Who will be distributing the non-cash, merchandise prizes?

A: Washington's Lottery will handle distribution of all prizes to their respective winners. Washington's Lottery will hold all merchandise prizes donated by private or publicly-traded companies and state agencies, and will coordinate the shipping of prizes to their respective winners.

Q: Are prizes transferable?

A: No.

Q: Are prizes taxable and/or reportable to the IRS?

A: Washington's Lottery reports to the IRS any prize valued at \$600 or more, and winners will need to claim this when filing their 2021 federal taxes. For any prize valued at \$5,000 or more, Washington's Lottery is required to withhold 24% for taxes prior to providing a check to the winner.

Q: How is this promotion being funded?

A: "A Heroes Thanks" is being funded by federal Coronavirus Relief Fund dollars that were appropriated by the State Legislature. This is the same approach taken for "Shot

of a Lifetime” and by other states that have developed vaccine incentive programs through their state lotteries.

Q: Is this promotion organized by Washington’s Lottery?

A: “A Heroes Thanks” is a promotion from the State of Washington. It is organized by the Governor’s Office and administered by Washington’s Lottery, Washington State Department of Health, the Department of Defense, the Department of Veterans Affairs, and the National Guard. The Lottery was selected to help administer the promotion based on our long history as the state’s principal agency on conducting lottery drawings.

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