COVID-19 is a Major Risk to New York State’s Older Veterans

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The older adult veteran population is at high risk of contracting the novel coronavirus. Confirmed cases of COVID-19 mirror the population density of older veterans in New York State. Communities with large veterans populations, such as Buffalo, Rochester, Utica, and NYC, have seen rapid increases confirmed cases of coronavirus. As the virus continues to spread, the Veterans Health Administration (VHA) must prepare to provide coronavirus treatments to older veterans in NYS. Hospitals across the state are operating on limited supplies of masks, gowns and gloves. It is imperative to the health of our older veteran population that the VHA be prepared to treat more individuals for COVID-19 as the rest of the state scrambles to find beds and ventilators for patients.