



SECRETARY OF THE AIR FORCE  
WASHINGTON

07 DEC 2021

MEMORANDUM FOR ALMAJCOM-FLDCOM-FOA-DRU/CC  
DISTRIBUTION C

SUBJECT: Supplemental Coronavirus Disease 2019 Vaccination Policy

This memorandum establishes specific policy and provides guidance applicable to regular Air Force and Space Force members, Air Force Reserve and Air National Guard members. This memo includes supplemental guidance concerning those who requested separation or retirement prior to 2 November 2021, those whose requests for medical, religious or administrative exemption from the COVID-19 vaccine are denied, and those who refuse to take the COVID-19 vaccine. Compliance with this memorandum is mandatory.

As the Secretary of the Air Force, it is my responsibility to promote the health, safety and military readiness of all Air Force and Space Force personnel, regardless of duty status, to include Air National Guard performing any duty or training under both Title 10 and Title 32 of the United States Code. COVID-19 poses a direct risk to the health, safety, and readiness of the force. Vaccination against COVID-19 is an essential military readiness requirement for all components of the Air Force and Space Force to ensure we maintain a healthy force that is mission ready.

Commanders will take appropriate administrative and disciplinary actions consistent with federal law and Department of the Air Force (DAF) policy in addressing service members who refuse to obey a lawful order to receive the COVID-19 vaccine and do not have a pending separation or retirement, or medical, religious or administrative exemption. Refusal to comply with the vaccination mandate without an exemption will result in the member being subject to initiation of administrative discharge proceedings. Service characterization will be governed by the applicable Department of the Air Force Instructions.

Pending Separation or Retirement - unvaccinated regular Airmen and Guardians who submitted a request to retire or separate prior to 2 November 2021, with a retirement or separation date on or before 1 April 2022, may be granted an administrative exemption from the COVID-19 vaccination requirement until their retirement or separation date.

Medical, Religious or Administrative Exemption - unvaccinated regular Airmen or Guardians with a request for medical, religious, or administrative exemption will be temporarily exempt from the COVID-19 vaccination requirement while their exemption request is under review. Service members who receive a denial of their medical, religious, or administrative exemption request have five (5) calendar days from that denial to do one of the following: 1) Begin a COVID-19 vaccination regimen. If the service member indicates his or her intent is to begin the vaccination regimen, commanders may use their discretion to adjust the timeline based on local COVID-19 vaccination supplies; 2) Submit an appeal to the Final Appeal Authority or

request a second opinion (medical). If a final appeal or exemption is denied, the service member will have five (5) calendar days from notice of denial to begin the COVID-19 vaccination regimen; 3) If able, based upon the absence of or a limited Military Service Obligation (MSO), and consistent with opportunities afforded service members prior to 2 November 2021, request to separate or retire on or before 1 April 2022, or no later than the first day of the fifth month following initial or final appeal denial.

Regular service members who continue to refuse to obey a lawful order to receive the COVID-19 vaccine after their exemption request or final appeal has been denied or retirement/separation has not been approved will be subject to initiation of administrative discharge. Discharge characterization will be governed by the applicable Department of the Air Force Instructions. Service members separated due to refusal of the COVID-19 vaccine will not be eligible for involuntary separation pay and will be subject to recoupment of any unearned special or incentive pays.

Commanders will ensure all unvaccinated service members comply with COVID-19 screening and testing requirements and applicable safety standards. Leaders should continue to counsel all unvaccinated individuals on the health benefits of receiving the COVID-19 vaccine.

Unique guidance associated with the Air Force Reserve is provided at Attachment 1. Unique guidance associated with the Air National Guard is provided at Attachment 2.

This Memorandum becomes void one-year after date of issuance.



Frank Kendall  
Secretary of the Air Force

**Attachments**

1. Supplementary Guidance for Members of the Air Force Reserve
2. Supplementary Guidance for Members of the Air National Guard

## **Attachment 1**

### **Supplementary Guidance for Members of the Air Force Reserve**

1. This supplementary addendum establishes specific policy and provides guidance applicable to Air Force Reserve (AFR) members, pursuant to Secretary of Defense and Secretary of the Air Force guidance as well as AFRC/CD's *AFRC Vaccine Guidance* memo, dated 24 September 2021. Compliance with this guidance is mandatory.
2. Effective 2 December 2021, all AFR members were required to fall into one of the following categories to comply with the vaccination mandate:
  - a. Completed a vaccination regimen.
  - b. Have requested or received a medical exemption.
  - c. Have requested or received a Religious Accommodation Request (RAR).
  - d. Have requested or received an administrative exemption.
3. Unvaccinated members who request a medical exemption or RAR will be temporarily exempt from the COVID-19 vaccination requirement while their exemption request is under review. For those members who have declined to be vaccinated, or have not otherwise complied with the guidance above, they are potentially in violation of the Uniform Code of Military Justice (UCMJ) by refusing to obey a lawful order. Commanders should use their discretion as appropriate when initiating disciplinary action.
4. Traditional Reserve (TR) and Individual Mobilization Augmentee (IMA) members who fail to be vaccinated and have not submitted an exemption or accommodation will be placed in a no pay/no points status and involuntarily reassigned to the Individual Ready Reserve (IRR). Active Guard and Reserve (AGR) members who fail to be vaccinated and have not submitted an exemption or accommodation will have their AGR tour curtailed and involuntarily reassigned to the IRR.
5. Members whose medical exemption or RAR is denied have five (5) calendar days from receipt of their denial to do one of the following:
  - a. Begin a COVID-19 vaccination regimen.
  - b. Request a second opinion (medical) or submit an appeal to the final RAR appeal authority (AF/SG). If a final appeal is denied, the member will have five (5) calendar days from notice of denial to begin the COVID-19 vaccination regimen.
  - c. If eligible to retire:
    - i. IMAs and TRs may request to retire with a retirement date on or before 1 June 2022 and will be placed in a no pay/no points status not later than 60 calendar days post RAR/appeal notification.

- ii. **AGR members may be able to retire if they begin terminal leave status NLT 60 calendar days from RAR/appeal notification.**
- 6. **Immediately following notification of final adjudication, AFR members must comply with the vaccination requirement. Any refusal to receive the COVID-19 vaccine, absent an approved exemption, may be punishable under the UCMJ. Continued refusal will result in involuntary reassignment to the IRR.**
- 7. **Members will be subject to recoupment for any unearned special, incentive pays or certain training.**
- 8. **Where required, AFR Airmen will complete all out-processing requirements, to include the Transition Assistance Program or Permanent Change of Station actions.**

## **Attachment 2**

### **Supplementary Guidance for Members of the Air National Guard**

1. This supplementary addendum establishes specific policy and provides guidance applicable to Air National Guard (ANG) members pursuant to Secretary of Defense and Secretary of the Air Force guidance. Compliance with this guidance is mandatory.
2. IAW 32 U.S.C. 328, the Secretary of the Air Force hereby withdraws consent for members not fully vaccinated to be placed on or to continue on previously issued Title 32 Active Guard and Reserve (AGR) orders.
3. By 31 December 2021, ANG members, regardless of status, will be classified in the following categories:
  - a. Completed or have started a vaccination regimen.
  - b. Have requested or received a medical exemption.
  - c. Have requested or received a Religious Accommodation Request (RAR).
  - d. Have requested or received an administrative exemption.
  - e. Declined to be vaccinated.
4. Unvaccinated members who request a medical exemption or RAR will be temporarily exempt from the COVID-19 vaccination requirement while their exemption request is under review.
5. Excluding members with pending or approved medical, religious, or administrative exemption requests, ANG members that have not initiated a vaccination regimen by 31 December 2021 may not participate in drills, training, or other duty conducted under Title 10 or Title 32 U.S.C., and those with a remaining Military Service Obligation will be involuntarily assigned to the Individual Ready Reserve (IRR) in accordance with 10 U.S.C. §651 and DoDI 1235.13.
6. Members whose medical exemption or RAR is denied have five (5) calendar days from receipt of their denial to do one of the following:
  - a. Begin a COVID-19 vaccination regimen.
  - b. Request a second opinion (medical) or submit an appeal to the final RAR appeal authority (AF/SG). If a final appeal is denied, the member will have five (5) calendar days from notice of denial to begin the COVID-19 vaccination regimen.
  - c. If eligible to retire:
    - i. Title 32 Drill Status Guardsmen, to include Dual Status Technicians, may request to retire with a retirement date on or before 1 April 2022.
    - ii. Active Guard and Reserve (AGR) members may be able to retire if they begin terminal leave status NLT 60 calendar days from the RAR/appeal notification.

- 7. Immediately following notification of final adjudication, ANG members must comply with the vaccination requirement. Those with a remaining Military Service Obligation who continue to refuse vaccination, will be involuntarily assigned to the IRR.**
- 8. Members will be subject to recoupment for any unearned special, incentive pays or certain training.**
- 9. Where required, ANG members will complete all out-processing requirements, to include the Transition Assistance Program or Permanent Change of Station actions.**