



**DEPARTMENT OF THE AIR FORCE
HEADQUARTERS 176TH WING (PACAF)
JOINT BASE ELMENDORF-RICHARDSON ALASKA**



16 September 2021

MEMORANDUM FOR 176TH WING ARCTIC GUARDIANS

FROM: 176 WG/CC

SUBJECT: COVID-19 Vaccination Guidance

1. On 24 August 2021, the Secretary of Defense issued a mandate that all members of the Armed Forces will immediately begin full vaccination against COVID-19 (DAF 3 Sep 21 memo reinforces USAF compliance). Members of the Air National Guard have until 2 December 2021 to be in compliance (vaccinated or an approved exception).

2. Arctic Guardians will have several choices regarding military status, time slots, type of vaccine, and administering facility to ensure compliance by 2 December 2021.

a. It is highly recommended that all Arctic Guardians complete the vaccination process in a military status. Available military status include: Annual Training (AT), Special Training (ST), Regularly Scheduled Drills (RSD), Rescheduled Drills (RDs) and Readiness Management Periods (RMP). Some members may already be executing Active Duty for Operational Support (ADOS), Military Personnel Appropriation (MPA) days, or Active Guard and Reserve (AGR). These are also appropriate military status for the vaccination process. Each of these can be utilized remotely (commuter/non-commuter/DSG/Tech/AGR) providing broad opportunities to meet the compliance mandate.

b. Time slots utilizing a military facility can be coordinated with the 176th Medical Group (907-551-0455). Time slots utilizing a non-military facility can be coordinated directly with that facility.

c. Currently there is one FDA approved COVID-19 vaccination manufacturer, Pfizer. However, vaccination compliance enables members to choose Pfizer, Moderna, or Johnson&Johnson manufactured COVID-19 vaccinations at their discretion.

d. Arctic Guardians may choose a military or non-military vaccination provider. If a non-military provider is utilized it is each member's individual responsibility to provide documentation to the 176th Medical Group prior to 2 December 2021.

3. As is true in most cases "one size" does not fit everyone. There are three types of exemptions:

a. Medical, as determined by a military medical provider based on documentation and an examination.

"Arctic Guardians"

b. Religious, through the normal religious exemption process beginning with the members' chain of command. For COVID-19 the approval authority for the Air National Guard is our current director, Lt. General Michael Loh.

c. Administrative for approved separations.

4. Attached you will find an extensive FAQ as well as the Pfizer fact sheet covering their COVID-19 vaccination.

5. Similar to many requirements that are mandatory for military members (CBRNE training, small arms, other vaccinations, fitness evaluation, etc) the COVID-19 vaccination now falls into that category. My intent is to provide every Arctic Guardian with the resources to comply with the least invasive impact as possible. If you see a more innovative approach please share it with your chain of command and it will be evaluated.

ANTHONY D. STRATTON, Brigadier General, AKANG
Commander