Headquarters U.S. Air Force

Integrity - Service - Excellence
Headquarters Individual Reservist Readiness and Integration Organization

COVID-19 Vaccine Town Hall (begins at 1200 EDT)





U.S. AIR FORCE

HQ RIO Readiness & Training





- Lt Col Erin Karl HQ RIO/PA
- First slides
 - Many of your questions may be answered here!
- Second Q&A
- Please stay in the event lane
- Please mute and turn off your camera





- Active duty Airmen are supposed to comply by 2 Nov
- The SECAF and CAFR have set the date of 2 Dec for members of the Air Force Reserve
- IMAs can be held to an earlier date by their AC CCs
- Pfizer, Moderna, and Johnson & Johnson vaccines all satisfy the mandate
- Members can get the vaccine at their nearest MTF, RMU
 or from a civilian provider (must submit documentation through
 MyPers w/in 72 hrs after getting their vaccine)



 The SECAF has ordered all Airmen to be in one of three categories by 2 Nov (2 Dec for Reservists):

- Fully vaccinated
- Approved exemption/eligible exemption in progress
- Decline the vaccine (incompatible with continued military service)

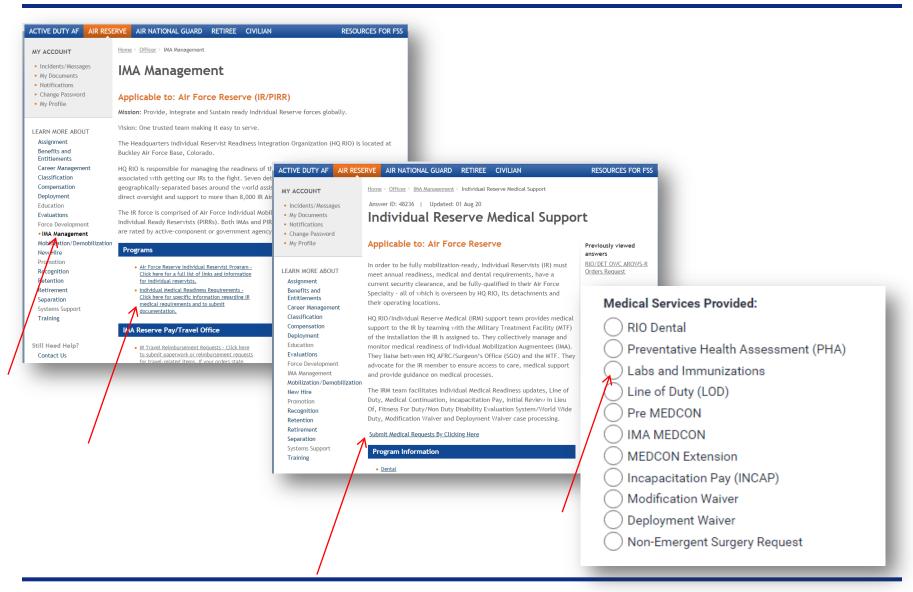


How to update your records

- Provide a copy of your shot record to your servicing MTF
- Scan or take a photo of your shot record and send to HQ RIO Medical via myPers
- Make sure to submit using the correct link (next slide)
- Be patient! There are three techs at RIO who update records and almost 8,000 Irs
- You will "turn green" once your records reflect receiving the final shot of your vaccine



Submitting a myPers Ticket to Medical







- Don't focus on the 2 December date
- Could take a few weeks for records to be updated
- Take away? Get started NOW
- Two-shot vaccines need time between ...

Moderna

CDC recommends 28 days between doses 1 & 2

Pfizer

CDC recommends 21 days between doses 1 & 2



Religious Exemptions

- Process begins with your active component unit
- Must be interviewed by a chaplain and counseled by commander and medical
 - This can be telephonic/virtual
 - Members can speak with chaplains at any point in the process
- Will take up to 60 days for processing
- Must be routed and approved by Sq->Gp->Wg->MAJCOM/CC
- Your MAJCOM/CC is final approval authority
- Approved exemption is noted in ASIMS & your personnel file
- Approved exemption will remain in effect until such time that:
 - Mission requires full vaccination
 - Member's belief changes

^{*} This slide was updated after the Town Hall to reflect accurate information



Medical Exemptions

- Processed at your assigned MTF
- Must have medical documentation submitted to your military medical record of a significant allergy to the ingredients in the <u>specific vaccine</u> or a medical diagnosis that is contraindicated to the specific vaccine
- Must be counseled by a military health care provider
 - Can be telephonic/virtual
- Approved exemptions remain in effect for the specific vaccine
- Check to see if virtual appointments are available
- Having a documented allergy to one vaccine does not exempt you from all vaccines
- Common side effects are NOT an allergy
- Approved exemptions are loaded into your medical records





- Regardless of status, all IRs work their exemptions through their ACTIVE COMPONENT chain
- Receiving an exemption to a Force Readiness requirement has significant impact on things that you will be able to do in your military career
 - Deployment
 - Certain TDYs/schools
 - Certain jobs/positions
- Some medical issues that would lead to an exemption may also require a medical review board/disqualification from service





- Be ordered into a status/compelled to be vaccinated?
 - Yes. Active component commanders have the authority to order you into a status (paid or unpaid) and order you to receive the vaccine
- Be ordered by my unit to be fully vaccinated by a date earlier than 2 Dec?
 - Yes
- Transfer to the IRR instead of receiving the vaccine?
 - No
- Receive the vaccine at an MTF if I'm not in a paid status?
 - Yes. Points-only IDT is an acceptable status





- Be ordered by my AC commander to get vaccinated if I'm not in status?
 - Yes
 - This is a readiness item no different than the yearly flu vaccine
 - You can refuse to get the vaccine, but once you "go red" for it on your IMR, administrative action can be taken



What if I refuse to get the vaccine?

- The choice not to be vaccinated is incompatible with military service
- The date by which the following can happen can be 2 Dec
 OR an earlier date established by your AC commander
- You could ...
 - Be put on no pay/no points status
 - Have current orders curtailed to the suspense date
 - Orders would be modified to extend once records show full vaccination
 - Be Denied orders
 - Have current orders curtailed and be sent home
 - Be Retired/separated earlier than your planned/approved date
 - Be made to retire or separate from the Air Force



What if I have a reaction?

Medical Services Provided:

Labs and Immunizations
Line of Duty (LOD)
Pre MEDCON
IMA MEDCON
MEDCON Extension
Incapacitation Pay (INCAP)
Modification Waiver
Deployment Waiver
Non-Emergent Surgery Request

Preventative Health Assessment (PHA)

- This is why being in some sort of status is important
- If you have a reaction to the vaccine AND the vaccine is administered when you're in status, then it can be considered a Line of Duty occurrence
- Contact your AC MTF to report the reaction
- If the symptoms are beyond the expected possible side effects according to your MTF provider, contact RIO Medical via myPers to initiate a Line of Duty (LOD)

determination



Do I have to get the vaccine if ...

I have an approved retirement date

- If the retirement date is after 2 December, but before 2 June
- If the retirement date is commander approved NLT 18 Oct
- Then YES, unless you choose to request being put in no points/no pay status (i.e. If you don't need the points for a good year)

I have an approved separation date

 If the separation date is after 2 December, then YES (If you don't need points after 2 Dec for a good year, contact your AC unit and det)

I'm a nursing mother

Yes, unless you seek and are granted an exemption

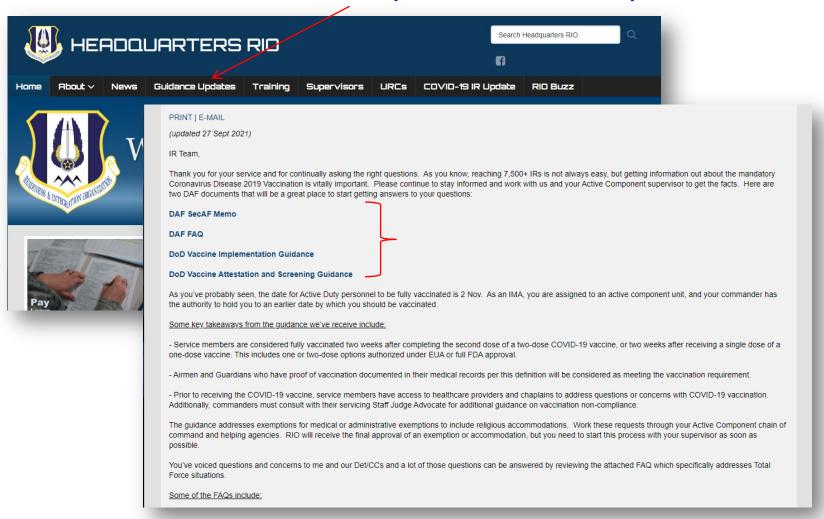
I already have a planned move to the IRR in process

Possibly – speak with your detachment



Where can I find more guidance?

· Linked on the Guidance Update at www.hqrio.afrc.af.mil





Still have questions?

- In attendance to answer your questions ...
 - HQ RIO CC Col Amy Boehle
 - Det Commanders
 - RIO Legal Adviser Lt Col David Groendyk
 - AFRC/SG Col Julianna Olson
- "Raise your hand" and wait to be called on OR
- You can type your questions in the chat
 - Answers will be verbal, not typed