

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)*
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By 2 December ...

- 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

ACTIVE DUTY AF AIR RESERVE AIR NATIONAL GUARD RETIREE CIVILIAN RESOURCES FOR FSS

Home > Officer > IMA Management

IMA Management

Applicable to: Air Force Reserve (IR/PIRR)

Mission: Provide, Integrate and Sustain ready Individual Reserve forces globally.

Vision: One trusted team making it easy to serve.

The Headquarters Individual Reservist Readiness Integration Organization (HQ RIO) is located at Buckley Air Force Base, Colorado.

HQ RIO is responsible for managing the readiness of the associated with getting our IRs to the fight. Seven detachments are located at geographically-separated bases around the world assisting with direct oversight and support to more than 8,000 IR Air Force members.

The IR force is comprised of Air Force Individual Mobilization Augmentees (IMAs) and Individual Ready Reservists (PIRRs). Both IMAs and PIRRs are rated by active-component or government agency.

Programs

- Air Force Reserve Individual Reservist Program - [Click here for a full list of links and information for individual reservists.](#)
- Individual Medical Readiness Requirements - [Click here for specific information regarding IR medical requirements and to submit documentation.](#)

IMA Reserve Pay/Travel Office

- IR Travel Reimbursement Requests - [Click here to submit paperwork or reimbursement requests for travel-related items. If your orders state](#)

LEARN MORE ABOUT
 Assignment
 Benefits and Entitlements
 Career Management
 Classification
 Compensation
 Deployment
 Education
 Evaluations
 Force Development
 Force Development
 IMA Management
 Mobilization/Demobilization
 New Hire
 Promotion
 Recognition
 Retention
 Retirement
 Separation
 Systems Support
 Training

Still Need Help?
 Contact Us

ACTIVE DUTY AF AIR RESERVE AIR NATIONAL GUARD RETIREE CIVILIAN RESOURCES FOR FSS

Home > Officer > IMA Management > Individual Reserve Medical Support

Answer ID: 48236 | Updated: 01 Aug 20

Individual Reserve Medical Support

Applicable to: Air Force Reserve

Previously viewed answers
[RIO/DET OVC AROWS-R Orders Request](#)

In order to be fully mobilization-ready, Individual Reservists (IR) must meet annual readiness, medical and dental requirements, have a current security clearance, and be fully-qualified in their Air Force Specialty - all of which is overseen by HQ RIO, its detachments and their operating locations.

HQ RIO/Individual Reserve Medical (IRM) support team provides medical support to the IR by teaming with the Military Treatment Facility (MTF) of the installation the IR is assigned to. They collectively manage and monitor medical readiness of Individual Mobilization Augmentees (IMA). They liaise between HQ AFRC/Surgeon's Office (SGO) and the MTF. They advocate for the IR member to ensure access to care, medical support and provide guidance on medical processes.

The IRM team facilitates Individual Medical Readiness updates, Line of Duty, Medical Continuation, Incapacitation Pay, Initial Review In Lieu Of, Fitness For Duty/Non Duty Disability Evaluation System/World Wide Duty, Modification Waiver and Deployment Waiver case processing.

[Submit Medical Requests By Clicking Here](#)

Program Information

- Dental

- ### Medical Services Provided:
- RIO Dental
 - Preventative Health Assessment (PHA)
 - Labs and Immunizations
 - Line of Duty (LOD)
 - Pre MEDCON
 - IMA MEDCON
 - MEDCON Extension
 - Incapacitation Pay (INCAP)
 - Modification Waiver
 - Deployment Waiver
 - Non-Emergent Surgery Request



Can you wait?

- 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 **specific vaccine** 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
-



Exemptions

- 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
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- **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
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- **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
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What if I have a reaction?

- 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

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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
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Where can I find more guidance?

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

The screenshot shows the Headquarters RIO website. The top navigation bar includes 'Home', 'About', 'News', 'Guidance Updates', 'Training', 'Supervisors', 'URCs', 'COVID-19 IR Update', and 'RIO Buzz'. A red arrow points to the 'Guidance Updates' menu item. The main content area features a 'PRINT | E-MAIL' link, a date '(updated 27 Sept 2021)', and a salutation 'IR Team,'. A paragraph of text follows, mentioning 7,500+ IRs and mandatory COVID-19 vaccination. Below this is a list of links: 'DAF SecAF Memo', 'DAF FAQ', 'DoD Vaccine Implementation Guidance', and 'DoD Vaccine Attestation and Screening Guidance'. A red bracket groups these four links. Further down, there is a paragraph about the vaccination date (2 Nov) and authority, followed by a section titled 'Some key takeaways from the guidance we've receive include:' with a bulleted list of three points. The final paragraph discusses exemptions and a link to 'Some of the FAQs include:'.



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