



DEFENSE HEALTH AGENCY
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March 2, 2021

MEMORANDUM FOR ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF THE ARMY (MANPOWER AND RESERVE AFFAIRS)
ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF THE NAVY (MANPOWER AND RESERVE AFFAIRS)
ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF THE AIR FORCE (MANPOWER AND RESERVE AFFAIRS)
PRESIDENT, UNIFORMED SERVICE UNIVERSITY OF THE HEALTH SERVICES

SUBJECT: Access to COVID-19 Vaccine for Members of the Selected Reserve (SELRES)

In accordance with the Deputy Secretary of Defense Memorandum, "Coronavirus Disease 2019 Vaccine Guidance, and DHA-IPM 20-004, Department of Defense (DoD) Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19) Vaccination Program Implementation," December 7, 2020, Service members on active duty and in the Selected Reserve (SELRES) are eligible and encouraged to receive COVID-19 vaccines at Military Medical Treatment Facilities (MTFs) or other DoD vaccination sites. Under current U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) Emergency Use Authorizations (EUA) for the available COVID-19 vaccines, all parties offered the vaccine must be given the option to refuse vaccination.

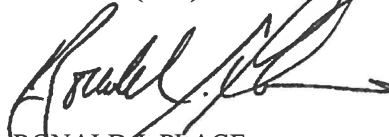
The Military Departments will determine the duty-status and other administrative procedures for their Reserve Component Service members receiving the vaccination. Members of the SELRES, which includes Individual Mobilization Augmentees (IMA), are not required to be eligible for, or participating in, a TRICARE plan to obtain the vaccine at MTFs or other DoD vaccination sites. The Defense Health Agency (DHA) recommends that SELRES personnel receive COVID-19 vaccinations at MTFs or other DoD vaccination sites and be in a service-appropriate duty status for the purpose of Line of Duty (LOD) determinations. Members of the SELRES can also utilize vaccination programs outside of MTFs and DoD vaccination sites, such as civilian county and state programs, to achieve DHA's objective of increased access to safe vaccinations for all eligible members of the DoD force. Costs associated with vaccines obtained outside of MTFs and DoD vaccination sites will only be covered by TRICARE for those actively enrolled in a TRICARE program. Most civilian vaccination programs are offering the COVID-19 vaccination free of charge.

Within certain limits, military members who incur or aggravate an injury, disease or illness in a qualifying duty status are covered for that episode of care under LOD authority. Determinations on any benefits from the Veterans Health Administration (VHA) will be made by the VHA. All individuals vaccinated with a FDA authorized or licensed COVID-19 vaccine may be eligible for compensation for adverse reactions under other programs such as the Countermeasures Injury Compensation Program, National Vaccine Injury Compensation Program, applicable Workers Compensation authorities, and other sources of care for which they may be eligible.

Members of the SELRES may utilize any MTF or DoD vaccination site offering the COVID-19 vaccine. SELRES units should assist their members with coordination and access to vaccination information.

All Military Departments must include members of the SELRES, to include mobilized reservists, in their local vaccine allocations, administration, marketing outreach, communications, and appointing processes. Members of the SELRES will have the same access to the COVID-19 vaccine as other eligible DoD populations within the approved DoD population schema and dependent upon vaccine supply.

My POC is COL April M. Snyder, who can be reached at (703) 681-8264 or
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RONALD J. PLACE
LTG, MC, USA
Director

cc:

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Surgeon General of the Navy
Surgeon General of the Air Force
Medical Officer of the Marine Corps
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