**AIR RESERVE PERSONNEL CENTER COVID-19 VACCINATION IMPLEMENTATION GUIDANCE FOR COMMANDERS OF**

**INDIVIDUAL MOBILIZATION AUGMENTEES (IMA)**

**Frequently Asked Questions**

1. Can IMAs be ordered to active duty to get vaccinated?
   1. Yes, Reservists may be ordered to annual tour/training with at least 30 calendar days’ notice.
2. In order to comply with the COVID vaccine mandate, are IMAs required to receive their immunization at a Military Treatment Facility (MTF)?
   1. No. While IMAs can be seen at any active component MTF, they may also do so at a civilian provider of their choice. If they elect to receive the vaccine at a civilian provider, an FDA approved or authorized (EUA) vaccine will satisfy the mandate. They will need to provide appropriate paperwork to their Unit Health Monitor to be entered in AHLTA and ASIMS for tracking purposes.
3. Should IMAs be in status when they receive their vaccines?
   1. Reservists are not prohibited from getting vaccinations when not in status, but are encouraged to be in status to preserve the full protection of service benefits.  “Status” includes, but is not limited to, annual tours, IDTs, or unpaid IDTs. The approved COVID vaccines are not only free to the public, but also covered by the National Vaccine Injury Compensation Program (VICP) which provides financial compensation to individuals who are found to have been injured by a VICP-covered vaccine. Additionally, Reserve component members are authorized full access to Military Treatment Facilities for evaluation and treatment of adverse effects potentially related to DoD-directed immunizations. Questions about whether or not the condition was incurred while in status will not prevent care.
4. What if IMAs do not have duty scheduled before 2 December 2021?
   1. Commanders may issue a vaccine order and monitor compliance until 2 December 2021. They may also consider ordering the IMA to Annual Tour (see Q1). IMAs have the responsibility to meet readiness standards at all times. Commanders may use administrative or punitive options when members fail to maintain IMR requirements.
5. Who issues the vaccination order for IMAs?
   1. The active duty commander issues the order and copies the member’s detachment commander.
6. How will vaccination orders be provided to IMAs not in a military status?
   1. An order may be sent by email, or in coordination with a member’s detachment commander, by email through myPers. Commanders must ensure the members receive and acknowledge the order.
7. What if IMAs do not respond to or acknowledge a vaccination order?
   1. They may face administrative action for failing to meet medical readiness requirements.
8. Will IMAs get put in a no pay/no points status if they refuse to get vaccinated?
   1. Absent a requested or approved exemption, IMAs will be paid for any duty completed, but then could be excused and sent home pending further action. Any subsequent AD periods could be marked as unexcused if the member does not have prior approval from the commander. The commander, in coordination with the appropriate RIO Detachment Commander, could also place IMAs into a “No Pay/No Points” duty status for failing to meet medical readiness requirements.
9. Will IMAs get put in a no pay/no points status if they request a medical or religious exemption?
   1. No. Work these requests through their Active Component chain of command and helping agencies. Service members seeking a medical or religious exemption are temporarily exempt pending resolution of the request. Possible medical exemptions are evaluated by a military medical provider IAW AFI 48-110. Requests for a religious exemption are processed IAW DAFI 52-201.
10. How will religious exemption requests from IMAs get processed?
    1. Process religious exemption requests from IMAs through the active duty chain-of-command the same as requests from active duty members.
11. What will happen if assigned IMAs are not vaccinated by 2 December 2021?
    1. Commanders have available to them the range of administrative and disciplinary actions to address members’ failure to meet standards. However, SecAF’s mandate withheld Initial Disposition Authority (IDA) from all commanders who do not possess at least Special Court-Martial Convening Authority and who are not in the grade of O-6. This means the IDA must have the opportunity to review each case before any disciplinary action occurs. The IDA may take action on the case or return it to the unit commander for action. Consult with the servicing Staff Judge Advocate’s office for appropriate action.
12. What administrative actions may commanders take when IMAs are not in military status?
    1. Commanders may issue administrative actions (i.e., LOCs, LORs) to members while not in status. However, IDAs must have the opportunity to review each case before any disciplinary action occurs. The IDA may take action on the case or return it to the unit commander for action. Consult with the servicing Staff Judge Advocate’s office for appropriate action.
13. If an IR has an approved retirement date or applies for retirement prior to 02 Dec 21 and receives an effective retirement date of not later than 01 Jun 22 and refuses to take the vaccination, may the member retire?
    1. The AFR has established 01 Jun 22 as the cutoff date for members who refuse to take the vaccine and want to retire. This applies to those AFR Airmen who will immediately be placed in NPNP status upon submitting retirement request. The AC commander will work with the member’s assigned Det/CC to place an IR in a NPNP status.
14. If I am an IR and decline to take the shot, which organization will administer adverse action?
    1. The unit where the IR is assigned will administer adverse actions, just as they would for their AC members. Absent a requested or approved exemption, IMAs will be paid for any duty completed, but then could be excused and sent home pending further action. Any subsequent AD periods could be marked as unexcused if the member does not have prior approval from the commander. The commander, in coordination with the appropriate RIO Detachment Commander, could also place IMAs into a “No Pay/No Points” duty status for failing to meet medical readiness requirements.
15. If an IMA’s long tour orders are curtailed, will they lose their accrued leave?
    1. Members who have accrued leave and do not have time to use all of their leave prior to their curtailment date, may be able to “sell back” their unused leave, retain any unused leave for future use if they return to a participating status, or lose the leave if unable to sell back prior to retirement/discharge/separation.