



OFFICE OF THE ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF DEFENSE

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WASHINGTON, DC 20301-1200

HEALTH AFFAIRS

ACTION MEMO

FOR: TERRY ADIRIM, M.D., M.P.H., M.B.A., ACTING ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF
DEFENSE FOR HEALTH AFFAIRS

FROM: David J. Smith, M.D., Deputy Assistant Secretary of Defense (Health Readiness Policy
and Oversight)

SUBJECT: Mandatory Vaccination of Service Members using the Pfizer-BioNTech/Comirnaty[®]
Coronavirus Disease 2019 Vaccines

- Request your signature on the Action Memo at NEXT UNDER forwarding the Action Memo to the Under Secretary of Defense for Personnel and Readiness to approve the letters at TAB A that rescinds and replaces Assistant Secretary of Defense for Health Affairs Memorandum, Mandatory Vaccination of Service Members using the Pfizer-BioNTech Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19) and Comirnaty[®] COVID-19 Vaccines, September 14, 2021.
- The memorandum states that the Pfizer-BioNTech COVID-19 vaccine produced under Emergency Use Authorization (EUA) has the same formulation as the Pfizer-BioNTech/Comirnaty[®] vaccine produced under the Biologics License Application (BLA).
- The memorandum adds a statement that a Service member, after medical counseling, declines administration of the EUA-manufactured Pfizer-BioNTech COVID-19 vaccine but will accept the BLA-manufactured product. The Department of Defense health care providers should engage with their logistics chain to secure and administer the BLA-manufactured Pfizer-BioNTech/Comirnaty[®] product prior to any punitive action being taken against the Service member.

RECOMMENDATION: Sign the action memo next under.

COORDINATION: TAB B

Attachments:
As stated

Prepared by: CATMS2010202125C87X/UPR003415-21