



UNDER SECRETARY OF DEFENSE
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WASHINGTON, DC 20301-4000

PERSONNEL AND
READINESS

MEMORANDUM FOR SENIOR PENTAGON LEADERSHIP
COMMANDERS OF THE COMBATANT COMMANDS
DEFENSE AGENCY AND DOD FIELD ACTIVITY DIRECTORS

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

- References: (a) Pfizer-BioNTech/COMIRNATY[®] Fact Sheet for Healthcare Providers
Administering Vaccine
(b) Vaccine Information Fact Sheet for Recipients and Caregivers²
(c) Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's Morbidity and Mortality
Weekly Report³

This memorandum rescinds and replaces Assistant Secretary of Defense for Health Affairs Memorandum, "Mandatory Vaccination of Service Members using the Pfizer-BioNTech COVID-19 and Comirnaty[®] COVID-19 Vaccines," dated September 14, 2021.

On August 23, 2021, the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) approved the Biologics License Application (BLA) for the Pfizer-BioNTech/Comirnaty[®] vaccine, manufactured by Pfizer-BioNTech, as a two-dose primary series for prevention of coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19) in persons aged 16 years or older. Previously, on December 11, 2020, the FDA issued an Emergency Use Authorization (EUA) for the Pfizer-BioNTech COVID-19 vaccine, which has the same formulation as the BLA produced Pfizer-BioNTech/Comirnaty[®] vaccine. Pfizer-BioNTech/COMIRNATY[®] Fact Sheet for Healthcare Providers Administering Vaccine (reference (a)), Vaccine Information Fact Sheet for Recipients and Caregivers (reference (b)), and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's Morbidity and Mortality Weekly Report (reference (c)), "Comirnaty has the same formulation and can be used interchangeably with the Pfizer-BioNTech COVID-19 vaccine used under EUA without presenting any safety or effectiveness concerns."

Consistent with FDA guidance, the Department of Defense (DoD) health care providers will utilize both the EUA-manufactured Pfizer-BioNTech COVID-19 vaccine and the BLA-manufactured Pfizer-BioNTech/Comirnaty[®] COVID-19 vaccine interchangeably for the purpose of vaccination Service members in accordance with Secretary of Defense Memorandum, "Mandatory Coronavirus Disease 2019 Vaccination of Department of Defense Service Members," dated August 24, 2021. Service members who request the BLA-manufactured Pfizer-BioNTech/Comirnaty COVID-19 vaccine for the primary two-dose series shall be informed of FDA guidance on Pfizer-BioNTech/Comirnaty[®]'s BLA formulation being the same as the Pfizer-BioNTech COVID-19 vaccine manufactured under (EUA and that FDA and CDC has advised that the two vaccines can be used interchangeably without presenting any safety or effectiveness concerns. If a Service member, after medical counseling, declines administration

of the EUA-manufactured Pfizer-BioNTech COVID-19 vaccine but will accept the BLA-manufactured product, DoD 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

Please direct any questions or comments to the following email address: dha.ncr.ha-support.mbx.policy-hrpo-kmc@mail.mil.

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