



THE ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF THE NAVY
(MANPOWER AND RESERVE AFFAIRS)
1000 NAVY PENTAGON
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20350-1000

SEP 08 2021

MEMORANDUM FOR ASSISTANT SECRETARIES OF THE NAVY
CHIEF OF NAVAL OPERATIONS
COMMANDANT OF THE MARINE CORPS
GENERAL COUNSEL OF THE NAVY

SUBJECT: **Use of Pfizer-BioNTech Vaccine for Mandatory Vaccination**

Reference: (a) Secretary of Defense memorandum, dtd 24 Aug 2021
(b) ALNAV 062/21, Department of Navy Mandatory COVID-19
Vaccination Policy
(c) Comirnaty® Biologics License Application Approval, dtd 23 Aug 2021
(d) Bureau of Medicine and Surgery Memorandum, Ser M00/21M00035, dtd 3 Sep
2021

This memorandum clarifies that mandatory COVID-19 vaccinations under references (a) and (b) can utilize the Pfizer-BioNTech and Comirnaty® vaccines because the **two vaccines are the same formulation and are interchangeable.**

On 23 August 2021, the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA), per reference (c), approved the first COVID-19 vaccine, Pfizer-BioNTech, for the prevention of COVID-19 in individuals 16 years of age and older, and announced that the vaccine will be marketed as Comirnaty®. Since December 11, 2020, the Pfizer-BioNTech vaccine has been available under an Emergency Use Authorization (EUA) for individuals 16 years of age and older, and the authorization was expanded to include those 12 through 15 years of age on May 10, 2021. These two vaccines have the same formulation. The FDA's press announcement is available online at <https://www.fda.gov/news-events/press-announcements/fda-approves-first-covid-19-vaccine>.

On 24 August 2021, the Secretary of Defense mandated COVID-19 vaccinations for service members on active duty or in the Ready Reserve, using only COVID-19 vaccines that receive full FDA licensure in accordance with FDA-approved labeling and guidance. **Per the FDA's guidance, the Pfizer-BioNTech vaccine distributed under the EUA and the licensed Comirnaty® vaccine have the same formulation and are interchangeable.** Navy medical providers can use Pfizer-BioNTech doses previously distributed under the EUA to administer mandatory vaccinations. The Surgeon General has provided amplifying guidance at reference (d).

Maintaining the readiness of our force is everyone's responsibility. Vaccinations continue to be the most effective tool available to prevent the spread of COVID-19.

Robert D. Hogue
Acting

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Distribution:

ASN (EI&E)
ASN(FM&C)
ASN(M&RA)
ASN(RD&A)
ACMC
VCNO
DUSN
GC
AUDGEN
CHINFO
CNR
DMCS
DNS
JAG
DON CIO
NAVIG
NCIS
OCMO
OLA
OSBP
Echelon 1 and 2 Commands