



DEPARTMENT OF THE AIR FORCE
PACIFIC AIR FORCES

08 Sep 21

MEMORANDUM FOR KADENA AIR BASE PERSONNEL

FROM: 18 WG/CC

SUBJECT: Mandatory Vaccination Order – Kadena Air Base

1. Effective immediately, CSD 21-078 is in effect. Consistent with the Secretary of Defense mandate issued on 24 August 2021 and subsequent Department of the Air Force guidance issued on 3 September 2021, all uniformed Airmen and Guardians are directed to receive the Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19) vaccine.
2. Unless exempted, Active Duty Airmen and Guardians will be fully vaccinated by 2 November 2021. Unless exempted, Ready Reserve, to include National Guard Airmen and Guardians, will be fully vaccinated by 2 December 2021. All other eligible personnel are strongly recommended to voluntarily receive either the approved COMIRNATY® or other Food and Drug Administration (FDA) Emergency Use Authorization (EUA) or World Health Organization's (WHO) Emergency Use Listings (EUL) COVID-19 vaccines.
3. Only COVID-19 vaccines that receive full licensure from the FDA will be utilized for mandatory vaccinations unless a military member volunteers to receive a vaccine that has obtained FDA EUA or is included in the WHO's EUL.
 - a. On 23 August 2021, the FDA approved the Pfizer-BioNTech mRNA COVID-19 vaccine, now marketed as "COMIRNATY®," for prevention of COVID-19 disease in individuals 16 years of age and older. The FDA-approved COMIRNATY® and the FDA-authorized Pfizer-BioNTech COVID-19 vaccine under EUA have the same formulation and can be used interchangeably. Providers can use doses distributed under the EUA to administer the vaccination series as if the doses were the licensed vaccine according to the FDA.
 - b. Service members voluntarily immunized with a COVID-19 vaccine under FDA EUA or WHO EUL IAW applicable dose requirements prior to, or after, the establishment of this order are considered fully vaccinated.
4. Exemptions, Refusal, and Disposition Authority
 - a. Exemptions may be granted to Active Duty and Ready Reserve Airmen and Guardians and fall under three categories: Administrative, Religious, and/or Medical. For all exemptions, members should coordinate with their commander to initiate the steps for exemption and to understand the required process. Guidance for exemptions is found within DAFI 52-201, *Religious Freedom in the Department of the Air Force*, dated 23 June 2021, and AFI 48-110, *Immunizations and Chemoprophylaxis for the Prevention of Infectious Diseases*, certified current 16 February 2018.
 - b. IAW the DAF COVID Vaccination Memo, Article 22 of the Uniform Code of Military Justice (UCMJ), and Rules for Court-Martial 306, 401, and 601, the Secretary of the Air Force has withheld initial disposition authority for cases arising from COVID-19 vaccine refusal from all Commanders within the DAF who do not possess at least special court-martial convening authority and are not in

the grade of O-6. [NOTE: Initial disposition for cases arising from COVID-19 vaccine refusal include taking no action by Commanders.] All Kadena Commanders, including those assigned to 18 WG, 353 SOW, and Air Force tenant units, must coordinate with the 18th Wing Commander prior to taking any action (to include initial disposition and any subsequent progressive disciplinary action) as a result of a refusal or failure of a member to obtain the COVID-19 vaccine.

c. In addition to this general order, a commander ordering a military member to take the COVID-19 vaccine constitutes a lawful order. Military members who indicate their refusal of the COVID-19 vaccination or who have initially refused the vaccination should discuss their concerns with their command, and Commanders will document any accompanying counseling on the appropriate resources in writing. Vaccine refusal will be handled with the appropriate regard to the individual's privacy.

5. The health and safety of service members, civilian employees, contractors, and their families, is my #1 concern. Any person who refuses to obey or otherwise violates this order may be held accountable. Active Duty Airmen and Guardians and Ready Reserve, to include National Guard Airmen and Guardians, may be punished under the UCMJ. Unless exempted, violating paragraph 2 of this general order is punitive. Violation of this order may result in administrative, non-judicial, or judicial actions under the UCMJ.

6. All questions regarding mandatory vaccination requirement should be routed through Unit Commanders. For all questions regarding this CSD, contact the respective Unit Control Center (UCC) or the 18 WG's Current Operations Center at 634-2734/2741.

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Commander, 18th Wing