



TEXAS MILITARY DEPARTMENT

36TH INFANTRY DIVISION
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1 February 2022

LETTER FOR All 36th Infantry Division Soldiers

SUBJECT: COVID-19 Vaccination Guidance and Policy Education

1. The purpose of this letter is to educate Service Members (SM) on Department Of Defense guidance and policy that is in place for the COVID-19 vaccination. It is important to ensure all SMs are aware of the options that are available to them, understand the DOD policy and discharge dates for those not receiving the vaccination without an approved exemption, and share facts about the vaccination. COVID-19 vaccinations are voluntary, and no SMs will be forced to receive the vaccination by the Texas Military Department. Currently though the DOD policy mandates vaccination. The COVID-19 vaccination is available to the entirety of the Texas Army National Guard (including dependents).

2. The Texas Governor has prohibited a COVID-19 vaccine mandate to Texas Military Department service members. However, the Department of Defense has mandated that all Title 5 Miltechs, T10 AGR, T32 AGR, ADOS, and M-Day Soldiers receive the COVID-19 vaccine. The Department of Defense mandate prohibits SMs from attending ATRRS schools on federal installations and Title 10 mobilizations before the 30 June, 2022 deadline. After 30 June if a soldier is not fully vaccinated soldiers will not be paid for IDT, AT or any other federal pay. The Texas Attorney General has filed a lawsuit on behalf of the Texas Governor to stop the DoD vaccine requirement but the Texas Military Department does not know if these efforts in the courts will be successful by 30 Jun 22.

3. As the Command Team of the best Division in the Army, we want to maintain our tremendous Soldiers within our organization. You have the skills and strength that continually help the Division and the Texas Military Department be successful. We recognize that you and your family have made significant sacrifices and we want you to maintain the benefits of membership that you have earned over your career. Each individual Soldier brings value and an additional perspective to improving and maintaining our forces as Texas Strong. That is why we are encouraging you to make an educated decision on what is right for you, your family, and your future. The following paragraphs describe the timelines established by Headquarters Department of the Army and the National Guard Bureau.

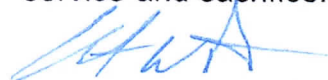
4. The deadline to become fully vaccinated is June 30th 2022. That means to be compliant, you must start receiving the two-dose vaccine NLT (15MAY22) 45 days prior to the June 30th deadline. If you were to receive the one dose series on the economy, you must receive it 15 days (15 June) prior to the deadline. Soldiers are not required to be in a duty status to receive the vaccine, but are encouraged IOT receive an LOD in

the case of adverse reactions. Soldiers must provide their vaccination documentation to the unit before 21 June 22 to ensure their status is updated in MEDPROS. By declining to become fully vaccinated by the June 30th 2022 deadline, the Department of the Army may subject you to loss of pay, benefits, and a potential discharge from the Army.

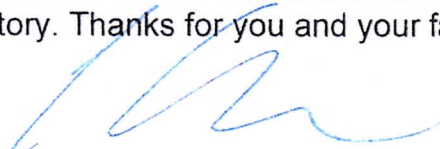
5. You can submit an exemption packet if you chose. All exemption packets for the COVID-19 vaccination must be submitted NLT 01 March 2022 to the Office of the Joint Surgeon (OJS). Religious exemption packets will be coordinated through your Chain of Command to receive a Chaplain assessment and receive a counseling from a licensed health care provider to ensure you are making an informed decision. As of 11JAN2022 the Department of the Army has only approved 5 medical exemptions out of 2781 exemptions submitted.

6. Please take a moment to review a copy of the TMD COVID-19 brief (provided by your chain command) and CDC Vaccine Safety brief
[HTTPS://WWW.CDC.GOV/VACCINESAFETY/INDEX.HTML.](https://www.cdc.gov/vaccinesafety/index.html)

7. In conclusion we strongly ask you to consider getting vaccinated now. We need your leadership and experience to stay on the Arrowhead Team. You are a member of the most experienced Texas National Guard in history. Thanks for you and your family's service and sacrifice.



Clinton W. Petty
CSM, TXARNG
Command Sergeant Major, 36ID



Charles K. Aris
MG, TXARNG
Commanding General, 36ID

Information Brief Confirmation:

Unit _____

Soldier Name _____

I am ready to be vaccinated _____

I am considering vaccinations but would like more information _____

I understand this is a career choice but have not yet decided to be vaccinated

CO 1SG _____ or CO CDR _____

SM Receipt and Comments: _____