

Is a booster shot needed?

Please see recommendations from the Center for Disease Control at <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/vaccines/booster-shot.html>

Is the vaccine mandatory?

Yes, the vaccine is mandatory for The Department of Defense military members and civilians.

Can I get a vaccination waiver or exemption?

Qualifying members may apply for a Religious Exemption or they may apply for a Medical Exemption for vaccination. Religious exemptions are temporary only. Medical Exemptions are ONLY approved when member has a documented severe allergic reaction or a significant health complication due to previous COVID-19 vaccination. You may call PH at 580-213-6643 for more information.

After I receive the vaccine, do I still have to stay home (aka quarantine) if I interact with a COVID individual?

If you are two weeks past your final vaccine dose, then you are considered fully vaccinated; you may remain in the workplace as long as you wear a mask and are symptom free. As always, call Vance Public Health (580-213-6643) for documentation purposes and full instructions, if you have been exposed to or have interacted with a COVID positive individual.

Will the current COVID-19 Vaccine(s) protect me from new strains of COVID?

As more strains become identified, it is possible that the current vaccines may not be as effective, which is why it is important to prevent further infections via mask wear, physical distancing and additional vaccinations as they become available.

Is the vaccine painful?

Some people may experience arm pain after the injection in addition to other common vaccine side effects. These symptoms mean your body is building an immunity against a future infection. For a list of common side effects and instructions on what to do after you receive a COVID-19 vaccine click here:

<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/vaccines/expect/after.html>

Will the vaccine cause me to test positive on a COVID-19 test?

No. You will not test positive due to receiving your vaccine. For more information, visit the Centers for Disease Control website: <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/vaccines/facts.html>

I was positive in the past. When can I receive the vaccine?

At the Vance Clinic, you may receive the vaccine once you are fully recovered from COVID and feeling better, in most cases. If you were hospitalized or had severe COVID symptoms, consult your physician.

I'm a flyer. Am I able to fly after I receive the vaccine?

You may return to the cockpit 48 hours after receiving the vaccine.

Will beneficiaries missing the booster shot window due to vaccine availability have to start process over, incurring an additional shot and DNIF period?

No, unless the time frame is egregious. Commanders should contact the medical group with any questions about specific personnel.

Are there any known or suspected impacts to fertility?

No. There is no evidence to indicate that there would be any impact on a fetus or any impact on someone's ability to conceive, or on breastfeeding or pregnancy due to COVID-19 vaccination.

Can I trust the vaccine, especially since it was created so fast?

Yes. The process used to create the COVID-19 vaccine has been around for decades. More safety information can be found here: <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/vaccines/safety.html>. For detailed information about the science behind the COVID-19 vaccine, visit the Centers for Disease Control website: <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/vaccines/different-vaccines/mrna.html>.

Experiencing COVID-19 symptoms or have been exposed?

If you are exposed to someone who has had COVID-19 recently or if you currently have COVID-19 symptoms (fever or chills, cough or sore throat, shortness of breath, congestion or runny nose, muscle or body aches, headache, fatigue, new loss of taste or smell, nausea or vomiting, and/or diarrhea); call Vance Public Health for a phone evaluation at PHONE: 580-213-6643 or contact your primary doctor or clinic off base.

NOTE: Vance protocols for COVID-19 may vary from or be more stringent than recommendations from the Centers for Disease Control or the Local Health Department in order to prioritize mission safety and effectiveness. Contact Vance Clinic POC, patricia.g.baker8.mil@mail.mil, or call 580-213-6643 for questions.