

United States Coast Guard

Command Toolkit – Mandatory COVID-19 Vaccinations

Version 2.0 (25 July 2022)

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\* This toolkit is intended to serve as an aid for Commanders, Commanding Officers, and Officers-in-Charge in the field. It does not promulgate policy, nor does it serve as a substitution for policy. Contact CG-133 or your servicing legal office with questions regarding perceived conflict between it and Coast Guard policy.

## Command Briefing Guidance

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### Instructions and Best Practices

#### Overview

Vaccination remains critical to mitigating the effects of COVID-19 on the Coast Guard. The Coast Guard continues to focus on mission and personnel readiness in the midst of the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic.

The Coast Guard will maximize workforce mission readiness, and drive down the overall risk when it achieves its goal of a 100% COVID-19 vaccination rate for the Service. The Coast Guard has more than 98% of its Active and Reserve military workforce fully vaccinated (all required doses of a primary series) or in the process of completing vaccination, through the continued engagement and leadership of its leaders, chaplains, and medical professionals.

Consistent with the Secretary of Defense's direction, on August 26, 2021, the Commandant directed that all Coast Guard Active Duty and Ready Reserve members who do not fall within an approved exception to immediately become fully vaccinated against COVID-19. On September 7, 2021, the Deputy Commandant for Mission Support issued another lawful general order mandating the vaccine for Coast Guard Active Duty and Ready Reserve members. Additionally, ALCOAST 352/21 directed a number of administrative risk mitigation measures for unvaccinated members, which will remain in place as long as COVID-19 remains a threat to mission readiness. Finally, ALCOAST 270/22 directed additional administrative actions, including involuntary administration separation, for members who remain non-compliant after denial of medical exemption or religious accommodation requests or appeals.

The enclosed talking points, vaccine facts, FAQs, and resources are provided to facilitate these conversations, and ensure members fully understand vaccination requirements, as well as associated policies and procedures.

#### Commander's Intent

Per ALCOAST 315/21, Commanders, Commanding Officers, and Officers in Charge shall direct unvaccinated Active Duty and Ready Reserve Coast Guard members to initiate the COVID-19 vaccination regimen immediately, and in doing so shall ensure members are scheduled and made available to receive the vaccine. Commands should continue to counsel members in accordance with ALCOAST 315/21. Where a member has been initially counseled and fails to seek vaccination, Commanders, Commanding Officers, and Officers-in-Charge will order members to receive the vaccine at a vaccine administration site, on a particular date and time, designated by the command. This order will be documented through use of a CG-3307 P&D-41B (Officer-in-Charge) or P&D-41C (Commanding Officer), as appropriate. Commands who have not yet issued CG-3307 P&D-41 B/C to unvaccinated servicemembers who have received final adjudication of Medical Exemption or Religious Accommodation requests shall do so immediately. Any subsequent violation of the order shall be documented through use of the CG-3307 P&D-41D (Commanding Officer) or P&D-41E (Officer-in-Charge), which are available at the [List of Authorized CG-3307 \(Administrative Remarks\) Entries page](#). Commands shall not delay issuing CG-3307 P&D-41 D/E if servicemembers remain non-compliant after receiving P&D-41 B/C.

**Discussion Objectives**

In discussing mandatory COVID-19 vaccination requirements with members who are unvaccinated, commands should:

- 1) Ensure all members of the Coast Guard understand the policy surrounding mandatory vaccines and the COVID-19 vaccines that are available;
- 2) Present the accountability measures the Coast Guard will take for those who refuse to be vaccinated; and
- 3) Ensure all members understand the process and policy for religious accommodations and medical exemptions, as well as the consequences of failing to follow a lawful order.

**Materials**

All materials are provided as enclosures to help facilitate the discussion. They can also be accessed on CG Portal at: [COVID Community of Practice Portal Page](#).

**Member Documentation**

Discussions should conclude with the member signing the required CG-3307s per ALCOAST 315/21, ALCOAST 352/21, and ALCOAST 270/22. Per the Commander's Intent, counseling unvaccinated members on this requirement, the timeline for vaccination, and the process to request medical exemption or religious accommodation shall be documented through Administrative Remarks Form, CG-3307. Commanders, Commanding Officers, and Officers in Charge shall only use the templates provided. The standard administrative remarks templates for counseling are available at the [List of Authorized CG-3307 \(Administrative Remarks\) Entries page](#).

## Command Briefing Guidance

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### Opening Talking Points

- Vaccination is critical to mitigating the effects of COVID-19 on the Coast Guard. The Coast Guard continues to focus on mission and personnel readiness in the midst of the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic. The Coast Guard's efforts to achieve maximum vaccination of the workforce has taken on new urgency as highly-transmissible variants emerge, and more businesses and public places are opening with fewer requirements for masking and social distancing.
- While the Coast Guard has made significant strides in vaccinating its workforce against COVID-19, Coast Guard members generally do not live or work in isolation from the public. Because of this, the most relevant vaccination rate is that of the U.S. population as a whole. The U.S. population's vaccination rate is still too low to achieve herd immunity as evidenced by the extremely high numbers of hospitalizations and deaths caused by the recent Omicron variants. In addition, much of the world has low vaccination rates and Coast Guard members must remain worldwide deployable. Each member must take all available steps to avoid preventable diseases to ensure the Coast Guard remains ready and responsive.
- A fully vaccinated military force will save lives. The Coast Guard continues to move pointedly to fully vaccinate our servicemembers against COVID-19. The COVID-19 vaccine is a crucial step in the Coast Guard's fight against the disease, while at the same time keeping our shipmates, families, friends, and communities safe and healthy.
- The Coast Guard remains committed to protecting its servicemembers, civilian employees, and families; safeguarding its national security and mission execution capabilities; and supporting the whole-of nation response to the pandemic. A force fully vaccinated against COVID-19 is essential to sustaining Coast Guard mission readiness.
- The Coast Guard must do everything in its power to stop this virus for the health and safety of every American. The Coast Guard will have maximized and ensured workforce mission readiness when the Coast Guard achieves its goal of a 100% vaccination rate for the Service.
- On August 24, 2021, the Secretary of Defense determined that mandating the COVID-19 vaccines for servicemembers is necessary to protect the military and defend the American people.
- The Secretary of Defense directed the Secretaries of the Military Departments to immediately begin full vaccination of all Active Duty and Ready Reserve members of the Armed Forces under Department of Defense (DoD) authority who are not fully vaccinated against COVID-19.
- Consistent with the Secretary of Defense's direction, on August 26, 2021, the Commandant directed all Coast Guard Active Duty and Ready Reserve members who are not fully vaccinated, who do not fall within an approved exception, to immediately become vaccinated against COVID-19. On September 7, 2021, the Deputy Commandant for Mission Support issued another lawful general order requiring members to be fully vaccinated.

## Facilitated Discussion on Mandatory Vaccines

### Module I – Mandatory Vaccinations – Policy, Requirements, and Vaccine Availability

*Objective: Deliver mandatory vaccine policy and wide availability of vaccines.*

- Consistent with the Secretary of Defense's direction, on August 26, 2021, the Commandant directed that all Coast Guard active duty and Ready Reserve members who are not fully vaccinated, who do not have an approved exemption or accommodation, must immediately become vaccinated against COVID-19.
- Coast Guard Active Duty and Ready Reserve members will be provided vaccines that have received Food and Drug Administration (FDA) licensure, and are in stock. Currently, the Pfizer-BioNTech COVID-19 vaccine, which was licensed by the FDA on August 23, 2021, and the Moderna COVID-19 vaccine, which was licensed by the FDA on January 31, 2022, meet these criteria.
- Additionally, servicemembers who have already received all required doses of an FDA-licensed vaccine, a vaccine administered under the FDA's Emergency Use Authorization (EUA), or a vaccine on the World Health Organization Emergency Use Listing are considered fully vaccinated two weeks after having met the vaccine manufacturer's dosing and timing requirements for their primary series.
- The FDA has provided EUA for the Novavax COVID-19 vaccine, Adjuvanted. Servicemembers who complete the Novavax regime, in accordance with the manufacturing, dosing, and timing requirements for their primary series are compliant with the Coast Guard's COVID-19 vaccine mandate. Although the Coast Guard will work to stock Novavax at its clinics, the Coast Guard cannot guarantee availability. As with other vaccines, members may obtain a Novavax vaccination through DoD clinics/MTFs and TRICARE providers, as well as commercial pharmacies.
- The Coast Guard's servicemember vaccine mandate is consistent with the Secretary of Defense's direction. The Secretary of Defense has authorized the use of compelled COVID-19 vaccinations in accordance with Food and Drug Administration (FDA) guidance. The FDA's guidance notes that Pfizer-BioNTech COVID-19 and Pfizer's name branded Comirnaty are identically formulated and are interchangeable for the purposes of vaccine administration.
- Further, the Assistant Secretary for Defense (Health Affairs) directed DoD health care providers to use both the Pfizer-BioNTech COVID-19 vaccine and the Comirnaty COVID-19 vaccine interchangeably for the purpose of vaccinating service members to comply with the Secretary of Defense's direction.
- Those with previous COVID-19 infection are not considered fully vaccinated unless they are fully vaccinated as described above.
- Servicemembers who were enrolled and actively participating in a COVID-19 clinical trial at the time the Commandant issued ALCOAST 305/21 are exempt from mandatory vaccination until the trial is complete to avoid invalidating such clinical trial results.
- Standard CG-3307 templates have been provided to Commanders, Commanding Officers, and Officers in Charge to document an unvaccinated member's receipt of an order to report to a vaccine administration site, at a particular date and time, designated by the command.

Another CG-3307 will allow commands to document the member's failure to follow that order.

- These CG-3307s will stay in the member's permanent record and may affect eligibility for continued service, future assignments, boards, and panels.
- A member's failure to abide by the direction in the CG-3307 (P&D-41 series) will result in administrative consequences and may result in disciplinary action, as appropriate.
- Vaccines are readily available at Coast Guard clinics, military treatment facilities, and civilian healthcare providers.
- Commanders, Commanding Officers, and Officers in Charge shall direct unvaccinated Active Duty and Ready Reserve Coast Guard members to initiate the COVID-19 vaccination regimen immediately, and in doing so shall ensure members are scheduled and made available to receive the vaccine.
- Military members should contact their servicing clinic for information on vaccine availability or to record a vaccine obtained on the Tricare network. The clinic front desk numbers are available on the HSWL app in the Medical Tab under the heading "USCG Clinic Front Desk Phone Numbers" and on the official CG website ([www.uscg.mil/Coronavirus](http://www.uscg.mil/Coronavirus)) under the "Vaccine Guidance" heading.
- Additional COVID-19 vaccines are being delivered to Coast Guard clinics to accelerate vaccination of the entire workforce and are available for any Active Duty or Ready Reserve member.
- The lawful general order for military members does not change the existing authority for Coast Guard clinics to vaccinate Coast Guard civilian employees, contractors, or Coast Guard dependent family members who voluntarily seek vaccination.

## Facilitated Discussion on Mandatory Vaccines

### Module II – Authorities and Accountability

*Objectives: Deliver the possible negative consequences for those who refuse the requirement to be fully vaccinated against COVID-19.*

- In accordance with ALCOAST 305/21 “Mandating COVID-19 Vaccination for Military Members” and ALCOAST 315/21, “Mandating COVID-19 Vaccination for Military Members: Update 1,” the requirement to be fully vaccinated against COVID-19 constitutes a lawful general order.
- Refusal by Coast Guard Active Duty and Ready Reserve members to fully vaccinate against COVID-19 per the prescribed timelines, absent an approved medical exemption or religious accommodation, will constitute a violation of Article 92 of the Uniform Code of Military Justice (UCMJ), and may result in punitive action, administrative action, or both, including initiation of discharge proceedings.
- ALCOAST 270/22 directs the Coast Guard’s next steps regarding the COVID-19 vaccine mandate in ALCOAST 315/21.
- Definitions:
  - Compliant. Servicemembers who are vaccinated against COVID-19 to the current Coast Guard requirements (both doses of a two dose primary series or a single dose of a one dose primary series), as well as unvaccinated servicemembers who have a Permanent Medical Exemption (ME), or who have an approved Religious Accommodation (RA).
  - Pending Compliance. Servicemembers who are unvaccinated against COVID-19, but who have a current temporary or pending medical exemption, or who are awaiting adjudication of their RA or RA appeal.
  - Non-compliant. Servicemembers who are unvaccinated and who have been issued CG-3307 P&D-41 D/E. Servicemembers who have only received one dose of a two-dose vaccine are considered pending compliance until eight weeks following the date of the first dose; thereafter servicemembers are considered non-compliant until they complete the two-dose regimen.
- The following measures have been implemented:
  - Advancement and Promotion:
    - Enlisted advancement (Active Duty and Reserve). Non-compliant enlisted servicemembers may compete in the SWE but their advancements will be withheld until they become compliant. Non-compliant enlisted servicemembers who fail to gain compliance prior to the expiration of the applicable advancement eligibility list will have to re-compete for advancement in the next advancement cycle. Enlisted servicemembers Pending Compliance may compete in the SWE and remain eligible for advancement.
    - Officer promotion (Active Duty and Reserve). Non-compliant officers are not eligible for promotion. Officers Pending Compliance are eligible to be selected by a promotion board, as well as to be promoted in accordance with COMDTINST M1000.3 (series). The Coast Guard will take appropriate action

to remove from the applicable promotion list, any officer selected for promotion who is Pending Compliance at the time of selection and who later becomes Non-compliant.

- o Continuation of Service (Active Duty): Vaccination against COVID-19 is a requirement for all servicemembers in the Coast Guard. Vaccination is necessary to be worldwide deployable and protects individual medical readiness, which protects unit and Service readiness. Further, as a military service, good order and discipline, including compliance with lawful orders, is non-negotiable. Therefore, the Coast Guard will begin involuntary administrative separation processing for each Non-compliant servicemember the latter of 30 days from the release of ALCOAST 270/22 or from the date the member is issued CG-3307 P&D-41 D/E. The Coast Guard will assess its readiness needs by reviewing several factors - including, but not limited to, criticality of rate, officer specialty code/qualifications, command concerns, Non-compliant concentration at individual units, and assignment location - to determine the effective separation date, but *all Non-compliant servicemembers will be processed for separation.*

- Enlisted members.

1. Non-compliant enlisted servicemembers and enlisted servicemembers Pending Compliance are ineligible to re-enlist. Enlisted servicemembers Pending Compliance may extend their enlistment contract, but these extensions will not exceed one year. Non-compliant enlisted servicemembers will be involuntarily administratively separated for Convenience of the Government. PSC-EPM will consider the totality of a servicemember's current enlistment record in accordance with COMDTINST M1000.4 (series), which may result in a less favorable characterization of service, but not less favorable than GENERAL: UNDER HONORABLE CONDITIONS.
2. Absent one or more additional derogatory matters of record, enlisted servicemembers who are separated for COVID-19 vaccine refusal will typically receive an RE-3 re-enlistment code, which would ordinarily allow re-enlistment once the servicemember becomes vaccinated against COVID-19.
3. Commands of enlisted Non-compliant servicemembers shall coordinate with PSC-EPM to initiate involuntary administrative separation the latter of 30 days from the release of ALCOAST 270/22 or from the date the member is issued CG-3307 P&D-41 D/E. Commands will be authorized to request to delay the effective date of separation for the needs of the Service (e.g., to retain a servicemember in a critical billet until a replacement arrives). Requests for such a delay shall be included within the command endorsement to the administrative separation package. Commands shall forward such separation packages to the first flag officer in the servicemember's chain of command for review and endorsement, en route to PSC-EPM for disposition. Approved separation delays may include the approval of an extension to the non-compliant member's current enlistment based on the needs of the Service, but these extensions may not exceed one year.

- Officers. PSC-OPM will initiate the appropriate board process for Non-compliant officers in accordance with COMDTINST M1000.4 (series). Commanding



Officers may provide information on operational impacts of the officer's loss through board communications, as appropriate.

- Servicemembers in Duty Under Instruction Status (DUINS). All of the above guidance applies to servicemembers currently enrolled in DUINS programs, including flight school. The Coast Guard will seek financial recoupment as authorized by law, regulations, and policies from all servicemembers in a DUINS status who are administratively separated as prescribed in ALCOAST 270/22.
  - Continuation of Service (Reserve Members). All Non-compliant Reserve servicemembers will be processed for involuntary transfer to the Inactive Status List (ISL) on the latter of 30 days from the release of ALCOAST 270/22 or from the date the member is issued CG-3307 P&D-41 D/E. Non-compliant Reserve servicemembers are not authorized voluntary Reserve Component Category (RCC) changes and may not be issued voluntary active duty orders of any type. Non-compliant enlisted Reserve servicemembers and enlisted Reserve servicemembers pending compliance will be ineligible to re-enlist. However, enlisted Reserve servicemembers pending compliance may, for the needs of the Service, extend their enlistment contract, but these extensions may not exceed one year.
  - Determination of Separation Date. Given PSC's unique position to monitor the overall health of the workforce, PSC has the authority to manage the final separation date for Non-compliant Enlisted, Officer and Reserve servicemembers to meet the needs of the Service. In this capacity, PSC-EPM may grant extensions to current enlistment contracts, not to exceed one year at a time, and PSC-OPM will coordinate the scheduling of officer boards to best meet the needs of the Service
- Non-compliant servicemembers who elect to receive an approved COVID-19 vaccine prior to their effective separation date will be removed from the involuntary separation process and restored to their prior active duty or reserve status. Servicemembers who choose to comply are choosing to continue their service. Commands will issue an additional CG-3307 P&D-41 F/G to document these servicemembers' compliance with the Coast Guard's COVID-19 vaccine mandate following their completion of the required vaccine regimen. A template for this CG-3307 P&D-41 F/G is posted at the [List of Authorized CG-3307 \(Administrative Remarks\) Entries page](#). Servicemembers who become compliant and are removed from the involuntary separation process may be subject to reassignment based on the needs of the service (e.g., if another servicemember was ordered into the late-compliant servicemember's position).
- Members who are awaiting adjudication of a medical exemption or religious accommodation request (as described in next module) must comply with the risk mitigation measures in ALCGPSC 104/21 (as amended), but will not be subject to administrative or punitive consequences for being unvaccinated while adjudication of an exemption or accommodation pends.
- Members deployed at the time of promulgation of ALCOAST 270/22 to a location where vaccines are not available will be accommodated so that they receive the COVID-19 vaccination as soon as is practicable upon return to home port/unit. These members will not be subject to punitive or administrative measures until given a reasonable opportunity to receive the COVID-19 vaccine.

## Facilitated Discussion on Mandatory Vaccines

### Module III – Exemptions and Accommodations

*Objective: Ensure unvaccinated members understand the process for requesting medical, administrative, and religious exemptions/accommodations.*

#### *Medical*

- Medical exemptions are determined based on Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP) criteria for the immunization order under consideration. Medical exemptions may be temporary (up to 365 days) or permanent.
- Temporary medical exemptions may be granted by the attending Medical Officer.
- In accordance with Immunizations and Chemoprophylaxis, COMDTINST M6230.4 (series), members seeking a permanent medical exemption from COVID-19 vaccination requirement should notify their primary health care provider (HCP). If the HCP agrees that the exemption is medically appropriate, the HCP will make a written recommendation and forward the request to the Chief of Preventive Medicine (CG-1121) for final decision.
- The administrative exemption for deployment (mobility) immunization for Service members within 180-days of separation or retirement as described in Immunizations and Chemoprophylaxis, COMDTINST M6230.4 (series), does not apply to immunization from COVID-19.

#### *Religious*

- The Coast Guard provides reasonable accommodations to policy requirements, if that policy substantially interferes with a member's sincerely held religious belief, and that accommodation will not have an adverse impact on military readiness, individual or unit readiness, unit cohesion, health, safety, discipline, or mission accomplishment. The Coast Guard adjudicates requests for religious accommodations on a case-by-case basis. This adjudication is informed by input from the member's command, medical, judge advocate, and military chaplain, in accordance with relevant Coast Guard policy, which is itself informed by law, including the Religious Freedom Restoration Act and the U.S. Constitution.
- A servicemember's request for a religious accommodation must be balanced against the medical risk to the member and the unit, and Coast Guard requirements such as alert status, deployment potential, and availability of the member for reassignment to units requiring full medical readiness.
- The Office of Military Personnel Policy (CG-133) will adjudicate requests for religious accommodation consistent with Military Religious Accommodation, COMDTINST 1000.15 (series).
- Members should notify either their military chaplain or Commander, Commanding Officer (CO), or Officer in Charge (OIC), as appropriate, of their request for a religious accommodation. The member must submit a written request to their Commander, CO, or OIC per the template in enclosure (2) to Military Religious Accommodation, COMDTINST 1000.15 (series). Commanders/COs/OICs will consult with their servicing legal office while adjudicating member requests for religious accommodation. The member will then be counseled by their Commander/CO/OIC and a military physician, and

interviewed by a military chaplain. Once the counseling and interviews are completed and documented, the command will forward the request through the appropriate chain and the Office of Health Services (CG-112), then to Office of Military Personnel Policy (CG-133) for final decision.

## Enclosures

### Enclosure (1) – Vaccine Facts

#### *Vaccination Progress and COVID-19 Trends*

- Currently, more than 98% of Coast Guard Active Duty and Ready Reserve military personnel are fully vaccinated.
- According to the CDC, 1,020,355 Americans have died due to COVID-19 as of 20 July 2022. As COVID-19 cases rise again we see the rise of worse outcomes, such as hospitalizations.
- There are new COVID-19 variants around the globe that are more infectious than the original strain.
- The COVID-19 Omicron variant is highly contagious and is now the predominant variant (BA.5) in the United States. Compared to other variants, this variant is highly transmissible. Vaccinated individuals can catch and transmit the virus, so remaining up to date on vaccines, including booster doses that a servicemember is eligible to receive, remains the best strategy to reduce the severity of symptoms.

#### *Vaccine Development and Licensure*

- The U.S. Food and Drug Administration issued formal licensure of the Pfizer-BioNTech COVID-19 vaccine, now labeled as Comirnaty, on August 23, 2021. The Moderna COVID-19 vaccine was licensed by the FDA, now called Spikevax, on January 31, 2022. These licensures are based on rigorous studies and efficacy and safety data collected during use.
- The FDA-approved Pfizer-BioNTech product Comirnaty (COVID-19 Vaccine, mRNA) and the FDA-authorized Pfizer-BioNTech COVID-19 Vaccine under EUA have the same formulation and can be administered interchangeably to provide the COVID-19 vaccination series.
- The Assistant Secretary for Defense (Health Affairs) directed DoD health care providers to use both the Pfizer-BioNTech COVID-19 vaccine and the Comirnaty COVID-19 vaccine interchangeably for the purpose of vaccinating service members to comply with the Secretary of Defense's direction. The ASD (HA) has a similar interchangeability memo for Moderna COVID-19 Vaccine, supplied in multi-dose vials with red caps and labels with a light blue border, and the SPIKEVAX COVID-19 vaccine for the purpose of vaccinating Service members in accordance with the August 24, 2021, Secretary of Defense Memorandum, "Mandatory Coronavirus Disease 2019 Vaccination of Department of Defense Service Members.
- According to the CDC, it is not possible to get COVID-19 from vaccines. The Pfizer and Moderna vaccines currently approved against COVID-19 do not contain live virus and use genetic material (mRNA) from the virus. That material teaches cells how to make a protein that triggers an immune response that helps protect the recipient from getting sick with COVID-19. These vaccines don't change our genes, and the mRNA is broken down and discarded by our bodies after a few days.
- The Johnson & Johnson/Janssen vaccine has a Food and Drug Administration for Emergency Use Authorization in the United States. The vaccine is authorized for use in individuals 18 years of age and older for whom other FDA-authorized or approved COVID-19 vaccines are not accessible or clinically appropriate, and for individuals 18 years of age and older who elect to receive the Janssen COVID-19 Vaccine because they would otherwise not receive a COVID-19 vaccine. Johnson and Johnson/Janssen's vaccine contains a modified version of a different virus than the one that causes COVID-19. This modified virus includes material from the virus that causes COVID-19, which gives cells in the body "instructions" to create an

immune response. After the body produces an immune response, it gets rid of all the vaccine ingredients just as it would discard any information that cells no longer need. This process is a part of normal body functioning.

- The FDA has also provided Emergency Use Authorization for the Novavax COVID-19 vaccine, Adjuvanted and the Centers for Disease Control (CDC) has approved its use against COVID-19. Novavax vaccine contains a recombinant form of the SARS-CoV-2 spike protein, but no live virus or mRNA. The body can develop an immune response to this spike protein, which then helps to protect you from getting sick with COVID-19.
- The COVID-19 vaccines will activate the immune system so the body can fight the virus. After COVID-19 vaccination, members may experience some side effects. This is a normal sign that the body is building protection against the virus.

## Enclosures

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### Enclosure (2) – Web Resources

#### *Coast Guard*

- Vaccine Guidance and FAQs: [COVID-19 Vaccine Guidance](#)
- COVID/Vaccine Command Resources (CAC-enabled): [COVID-19 Community of Practice CG Portal Site](#)
- COVID/Vaccine Required Counseling Forms (CG-3307): [List of Authorized CG-3307 \(Administrative Remarks\) Entries](#)

#### *Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC)*

- [Understanding Different COVID-19 Vaccine Types](#)
- [Ensuring COVID-19 Vaccine Safety in the U.S.](#)
- [Ask COVID-19 Questions](#) (or call 1-800-CDC-INFO or 1-800-232-4636)
- [COVID-19 Data Tracker – County View](#)

## Enclosures

### Enclosure (3) – Frequently Asked Questions

The following Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs) address recent updates related to mandatory vaccinations. A full list of vaccine related FAQs can be accessed here: [Vaccine Side Effects FAQs > United States Coast Guard > Coronavirus Vaccine \(uscg.mil\)](#)

**Q: I am open to taking a vaccine other than Moderna or Pfizer. What are my options?**

A: A member who has received all required doses of an FDA licensed vaccine, a vaccine administered under the FDA's Emergency Use Authorization (EUA), or a vaccine on the World Health Organization (WHO) Emergency Use (EUL) is compliant with the Coast Guard's COVID-19 vaccine mandate, as described in ALCOAST 305/21 and 315/21.

Novavax's COVID-19 vaccine, Adjuvanted, recently received authorization from the FDA under a EUA and was recommended by the CDC for use as an option for adults. Novavax is an option to gain compliance IAW ALCOAST 305/21 and 315/21.

**Q: What is the difference between Novavax and the previously approved COVID-19 vaccines?**

A: The FDA approved vaccines (Comirnaty, Spikevax) are mRNA vaccines which teach the body how to make a protein, which then results in an immune response that helps protect us from COVID-19 infection. The Novavax vaccine is protein-based that the body develops an immune response to, which then helps protect us from COVID-19 infection. The Novavax vaccine is under FDA Emergency Use Authorization.

**Q: If non-compliant servicemembers elect to take the Novavax vaccine, will they be retained by the Service?**

A: A non-compliant servicemember who completes any of the FDA licensed or EUA vaccine regimens, including Novavax, prior to their final separation date, will be restored to their previous Active Duty or Reserve status.

**Q: I received a denial for my religious accommodation appeal. Can I appeal again?**

A: No. COMDTINST 1000.15 provides that "[a] member, who has been denied a religious accommodation, in whole or in part, may submit a written appeal to the official in the chain of command or chain of supervision one level above the officer or official who took the final action on the request." COMDTINST 1000.15 does not provide for an additional administrative appeal once the higher-level official takes final agency action on the initial appeal. CG-133 will return any subsequent requests to appeal the final agency action to the member directly, without further review or action by the Coast Guard. Consult COMDTINST 1000.15 for further guidance.

**Q: I have an approved retirement/separation. Am I still required to be vaccinated?**

A: There is an administrative exemption from the COVID-19 vaccination mandate, for those members with an approved separation or retirement date no later than 1 October 2022. This

exemption only applies for members who execute separation or retirement orders no later than 1 October 2022. Personnel considering modifications to approved separations to extend or re-enlist beyond 1 October 2022 are not covered by this exemption. The Coast Guard will take no further action on any request or pending appeal for a religious accommodation from the COVID-19 vaccination mandate for any military member with an approved separation or retirement date on or before 1 October 2022. Military members requesting to separate or retire pursuant to this policy shall reference this ALCOAST in their separation or retirement request.

**Q: Why do two non-compliant enlisted servicemembers being processed for administrative discharge at the same time for refusing the COVID-19 vaccine have two different dates for separation?**

A: PSC-EPM is authorized to consider the needs of the Service, to include a servicemember's specialty and command concerns, in determining a final date of separation. In general, non-compliant servicemembers will be retained only as long as is necessary for PSC-EPM to identify new personnel to be assigned to the separating servicemember's billet. Non-compliant servicemembers whose enlistment is expiring, may have their current enlistment extended by PSC-EPM for up to one year to meet the needs of the Service.

**Q: If I was previously non-compliant and choose to be vaccinated, will the previous CG-3307's (P&D-41 B/C and D/E) be removed from my record?**

A: No, those CG-3307's are a permanent part of a servicemember's complete administrative record. An additional CG-3307 (P&D-41 F) will be added to the servicemember's record to indicate receipt of an approved vaccine and the servicemember will be restored to their prior Active Duty or Reserve status.

**Q: Are servicemembers being administratively separated for refusal to take an approved COVID-19 vaccine eligible for formal awards?**

A: Yes. The decision to present the servicemember with an award rests with the servicemember's command and should take into account the totality of the servicemember's performance.