



SECRETARY OF THE AIR FORCE  
WASHINGTON

JAN 23 2023

MEMORANDUM FOR DEPARTMENT OF THE AIR FORCE COMMANDERS

SUBJECT: Rescission of 3 September 2021 Mandatory Coronavirus Disease 2019 Vaccination of Department of the Air Force Military Members and 7 December 2021 Supplemental Coronavirus Disease 2019 Vaccination Policy Memoranda

In accordance with the James M. Inhofe National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2023 Sec. 525 and the Secretary of Defense's 10 January 2023 memorandum, "Rescission of August 24, 2021 and November 30, 2021 Coronavirus Disease 2019 Vaccination Requirements for Members of the Armed Forces," I hereby rescind my 3 September 2021 memorandum, "Mandatory Coronavirus Disease 2019 Vaccination of Department of the Air Force Military Members." The "Supplemental Coronavirus Disease 2019 Vaccination Policy" I issued on 7 December 2021 expired, by its own terms on 7 December 2022.

No individuals currently serving in the Department of the Air Force shall be separated solely on the basis of their refusal to receive the COVID-19 vaccination if they sought an accommodation on religious, administrative, or medical grounds. The Department of the Air Force will update the records of such individuals to remove any adverse actions solely associated with denials of such requests, including letters of reprimand. The Department of the Air Force will cease any ongoing reviews of current Service member religious, administrative or medical accommodation requests solely for exemption from the COVID-19 vaccine or appeals of denials of such requests. Former Department of the Air Force Service members may petition the Air Force Discharge Review Board and Board for Correction of Military Records to individually request a correction to their personnel records, including records regarding the characterization of their discharge. Additional guidance on implementation of the memorandum will be forthcoming, as needed.

I am immensely proud of the work the Department of the Air Force has done to combat COVID-19. The Regular Air Force and Space Force are 99% vaccinated, the Air National Guard and Air Force Reserve are vaccinated at 94.3% and 95.9%, respectively. As a result of this outstanding response by our members, including incredible work by our healthcare professionals, we maintained our worldwide commitments and provided effective support to the nation. A heartfelt thank you to all Airmen and Guardians for your sustained effort—it made a difference.

One Team, One Fight.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Frank Kendall", is positioned above the printed name.

Frank Kendall

cc:  
SAF/DS