



DEPUTY SECRETARY OF DEFENSE  
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WASHINGTON, DC 20301-1010

MAY 29 2025

MEMORANDUM FOR SECRETARIES OF THE MILITARY DEPARTMENTS  
COMMANDERS OF THE COMBATANT COMMANDS  
DEFENSE AGENCY AND DOD FIELD ACTIVITY DIRECTORS

SUBJECT: Updated Policy on Seasonal Influenza Immunizations

The strength of our military is built on the readiness of America's brave men and women in uniform. To ensure that readiness, the Department invests in force health protection to combat threats from a variety of infectious diseases, including seasonal influenza, or the "flu." This guidance provides common-sense revisions to the Department's current flu immunization requirements to continue to support a medically ready force while exercising stewardship of taxpayer dollars.

The Department of Defense (DoD) currently offers, or covers, seasonal flu vaccines for all Service members. Prior to the effective date of this memorandum, the Department required seasonal flu vaccination for all Active Component and Reserve Component Service members.

Going forward, the Department will conserve its resources by requiring seasonal flu vaccination for Service members only when doing so most directly contributes to readiness.

Effective 30 days from the date of this memorandum, paragraph 1.2.c. of Department of Defense Instruction 6025.02, "DoD Immunization Program," is amended to read as follows:

"All Active Component Service members are required to receive the annual seasonal influenza immunization or obtain an exemption (i.e., medical or administrative). Reserve Component Service members activated for 30 consecutive days or more are required to receive the seasonal influenza immunization or obtain an exemption. During an outbreak, pandemic influenza immunizations will be required or recommended as appropriate, depending on the immunization's regulatory status at the time of the outbreak."

No DoD funding shall be allocated for retirement points only or payment of duties performed under title 10 or title 32, United States Code, by members of the National Guard or Reserve solely for the purpose of receiving influenza vaccinations, except as otherwise authorized. Reserve Component Service members who are not activated for 30 consecutive days or otherwise required to receive the flu vaccine retain the ability to elect to receive the flu vaccine, but the Department will no longer compensate them for their time spent doing so.

Separately, the Assistant Secretary of Defense for Health Affairs will assess the DoD civilian workforce influenza vaccine requirements. A report based on that assessment will be provided to the Under Secretary of Defense for Personnel and Readiness for review within 45 days of the date of this memorandum.

