



## OFFICE OF THE ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF DEFENSE

1200 DEFENSE PENTAGON  
WASHINGTON, DC 20301-1200

### HEALTH AFFAIRS

### ACTION MEMO

FOR: TERRY ADIRIM, M.D., M.P.H., M.B.A., ACTING ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF  
DEFENSE FOR HEALTH AFFAIRS

FROM: David J. Smith, M.D., Deputy Assistant Secretary of Defense (Health Readiness Policy  
and Oversight)

SUBJECT: Mandatory Vaccination of Service Members using the Pfizer-BioNTech/Comirnaty<sup>®</sup>  
Coronavirus Disease 2019 Vaccines

- Request your signature on the Action Memo at NEXT UNDER forwarding the Action Memo to the Under Secretary of Defense for Personnel and Readiness to approve the letters at TAB A that rescinds and replaces Assistant Secretary of Defense for Health Affairs Memorandum, Mandatory Vaccination of Service Members using the Pfizer-BioNTech Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19) and Comirnaty<sup>®</sup> COVID-19 Vaccines, September 14, 2021.
- The memorandum states that the Pfizer-BioNTech COVID-19 vaccine produced under Emergency Use Authorization (EUA) has the same formulation as the Pfizer-BioNTech/Comirnaty<sup>®</sup> vaccine produced under the Biologics License Application (BLA).
- The memorandum adds a statement that a Service member, after medical counseling, declines administration of the EUA-manufactured Pfizer-BioNTech COVID-19 vaccine but will accept the BLA-manufactured product. The Department of Defense health care providers should engage with their logistics chain to secure and administer the BLA-manufactured Pfizer-BioNTech/Comirnaty<sup>®</sup> product prior to any punitive action being taken against the Service member.

RECOMMENDATION: Sign the action memo next under.

COORDINATION: TAB B

Attachments:  
As stated

Prepared by: CATMS2010202125C87X/UPR003415-21