



October 5, 2021

To the Soldiers and Airmen of the Alabama National Guard,

On August 24, 2021, Secretary of Defense Lloyd Austin announced that all military members would receive a COVID-19 vaccine to ensure a healthy and ready force. In response to this directive, the Alabama National Guard will vaccinate all members, not otherwise exempt, according to service specific guidance and deadlines issued by the Secretaries of the Army and the Air Force. This headquarters will soon issue detailed plans and procedures to guide both Soldiers and Airmen regarding vaccination schedules, locations, and the exemption request process.

Please use this time to gain information about the COVID-19 vaccination so you can make an educated decision. Although the Pfizer vaccine (marketed as Comirnaty) is the only mandated vaccine for the military at this time, service members may voluntarily choose to receive other vaccines approved for emergency use. I strongly encourage all ALNG members to consider receiving the vaccine of their choice through established civilian facilities even before our mandated process begins. You can find a location closest to you by visiting the CDC website at [www.vaccines.gov](http://www.vaccines.gov).

Implementing mandatory vaccination is a necessary process to support our readiness. It is not an authorization for intimidation or harassment in any form and no one will be physically forced to receive a vaccination.

I am aware that there are reservations about this vaccination and I want to hear your concerns so we may discuss and properly address them. I urge you to share your thoughts at [al.ng.mil/COVID/](http://al.ng.mil/COVID/). Later this month, I will join other senior leaders participating in a town hall meeting to discuss this process and respond to questions.

Vaccinations will help ensure our Guardsmen's health and safety while preserving our readiness and ability to execute missions at home and abroad. Our professionalism and willingness to serve are what makes the Alabama National Guard "Always Ready, Always There."

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Sheryl E. Gordon". The signature is written in a cursive style.

SHERYL E. GORDON  
Major General, ALNG  
The Adjutant General