

# VNG supporting 59th Presidential Inauguration

The Virginia National Guard has approximately 2,400 personnel on the ground in Washington D.C. as of Jan. 14, 2021, assisting civilian law enforcement in protecting property and providing a safe environment for citizens to exercise their right to peacefully assemble and protest leading up to the Presidential Inauguration Jan. 20.

“Mobilizing a large force of National Guard Soldiers and Airmen on short notice is always a challenge because our personnel have loved ones, jobs and schools they have to leave to come on duty,” said Maj. Gen. Timothy P. Williams, the Adjutant General of Virginia. “Our leaders activated their alert rosters, the Soldiers and Airmen answered the call to duty, and we had a huge effort from our staff to get them in-processed and up to Washington, D.C. We had everyone in place by Sunday evening and ready to go as requested. It was a tremendous team effort, and we couldn’t do it without the support of our families and employers. I am incredibly proud of how quickly and safely our personnel responded, and they have effectively integrated into supporting the civilian law enforcement security plan.”

Read more: <https://go.usa.gov/xAy6D>



**Virginia National Guard Airmen assigned to the 192nd Security Forces Squadron, 192nd Mission Support Group, 192nd Wing help to secure the grounds near the U.S. Capitol, Jan. 13, 2021, in Washington, D.C.**

## Virginia National Guard News Headlines

### 192nd Airmen return from deployment with active-duty counterparts

Virginia National Guard Airmen were home just for the holidays after a rapid deployment to the U.S. Indo-Pacific Command area of responsibility. More than 35 members assigned to the 192nd Maintenance Group returned Dec. 19, 2020, after the joint mobilization with the 1st Fighter Wing’s 94th Fighter Squadron.

Read more: <https://go.usa.gov/xAy8M>

### Dep. Sec. Jabs visits VNG aviation facility

Virginia Deputy Secretary of Veterans and Defense Affairs Kathleen Jabs toured the Virginia National Guard’s Army Aviation Support Facility Dec. 11, 2020, to learn more about the VNG’s aviation.

Read more: <https://go.usa.gov/xAy93>

### MTC takes third in environmental awards

The Virginia National Guard’s Maneuver Training Center Fort Pickett took third place honors in the Natural Resources category of the Fiscal Year 2020 Army National Guard Environmental Security Awards.

Read more: <https://go.usa.gov/xAy9r>

### VNG units upgrade small arms arsenal during NET/NEF

Virginia National Guard Soldiers trained on new small arms and weapons components at Fort Pickett’s New Equipment Training / New Equipment Fielding facility Dec. 7 - 11, 2020, at Fort Pickett, Virginia.

Read more: <https://go.usa.gov/xAy95>

## Join the Virginia Army National Guard, Virginia Air National Guard or the Virginia Defense Force

For information about joining the Virginia Army National Guard, the Virginia Air National Guard or Virginia Defense Force, visit the appropriate link below:

### Va. Army National Guard

<http://nationalguard.com/va>

### Va. Air National Guard

<https://go.usa.gov/xGmKG>

### Va. Defense Force

<http://vdf.virginia.gov/joinvdf/>

## Join the Virginia Army National Guard Alumni Network

<https://go.usa.gov/xAYgp>

# Virginia National Guard begins COVID-19 vaccinations

Members of the Virginia National Guard began receiving the COVID-19 vaccine Dec. 31, 2020, as part of the national rollout established by the Department of Defense and National Guard Bureau. Distribution of the vaccine will be in accordance with guidelines recommended by the Centers for Disease Control, Department of Defense and National Guard Bureau.

“Each individual service member will decide whether they will receive the COVID-19 vaccination,” said Maj. Gen. Timothy P. Williams, the Adjutant General of Virginia. “We encourage Virginia National Guard personnel to discuss their options with their loved ones and health care professionals.”

Williams stressed the vital importance of ensuring those discussions are based on facts from trusted official sources and not misinformation that could potentially put lives at risk. Personnel will be asked to provide their preferences to their chain of command, and, if they elect to receive the vaccine, will be notified when and where to get vaccinated.

“This is an important, anticipated and much-welcomed chapter in our collective fight against COVID-19, and it is a huge positive the Virginia National Guard has been offered these vaccines early in the overall national rollout of vaccines,” said Col. Robert C. Mancini, the VNG state surgeon. “These vaccines provide 90-plus percent protection against COVID-19 infections, and this is much higher than any other tool available to us. I am confident the benefits of the vaccines far out-weigh any potential risks, and I plan to receive it as soon as it is my turn.”

The vaccine will be administered in three phases. During the first phase, priority will go to personnel conducting COVID-19 testing, emergency services and public safety personnel such as a medical, police, security and firefighters, essential personnel conducting maintenance operations and senior leaders. In the second phase, priority will go personnel preparing to mobilize and all other essential personnel. In the third phase, priority will go to all other healthy service members and civilian employees.

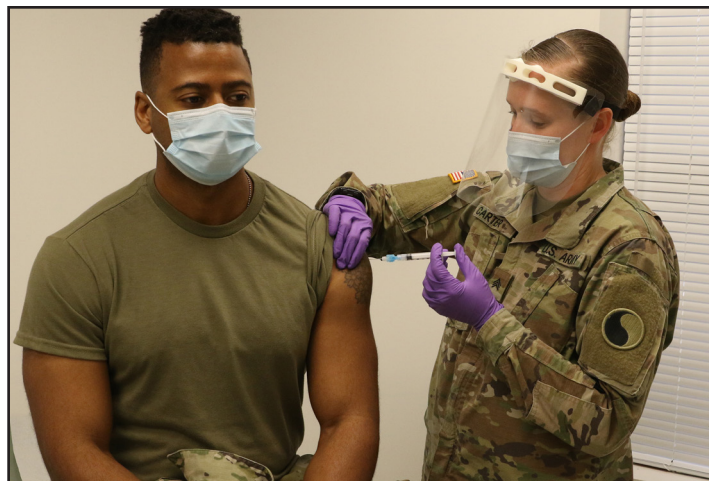
Both vaccines are a two-shot series, and both shots need to be of the same vaccine. The Moderna vaccine shots are spaced four weeks apart.

Mancini said that as with many other vaccines, reactions such as aches at the injection site and fatigue can happen.

Even if you have already tested positive for COVID-19, it is still recommended to receive the vaccine to decrease the risk of contracting it again since re-infections can and have happened, he said.

Before receiving the vaccine, a service member should be well and free of any COVID-19 or cold-like symptoms for two weeks. Since we don't know if the COVID-19 vaccine interacts with any other shots, service members should wait two weeks after getting their COVID-19 shot before getting any other type of vaccine.

While COVID vaccines are an important and effective tool, it will take many months before a high-enough percentage of the population is vaccinated to effectively prevent the spread of



**Capt. Wilifred Hale receives a COVID-19 vaccination from Sgt. Anna Carter Dec. 31, 2020, at Fort Pickett, Virginia. Members of the Virginia National Guard are receiving the COVID-19 vaccine as part of the national rollout established by the Department of Defense and National Guard Bureau.**

the disease, Mancini said. He emphasized It remains critically important for everyone to continue to wash their hands, wear a mask and maintain six feet social distancing.

Approximately 120 VNG Soldiers and Airmen are currently providing support, including COVID-19 testing sample collection and personal protective equipment fit testing and training. VNG COVID-19 response missions initially began in April 2020, and since that time, personnel have collected more than 146,000 sample collections at sites across the commonwealth.

Read more: <https://go.usa.gov/xAy9w>

## MORE ON THE WEB

### VNG COVID-19 Vaccination Resource Page

<https://va.ng.mil/COVID-19/Vaccine/>

### Photos: First Lady of Va. recognizes multi-agency partnership

<https://www.flickr.com/photos/vanguardpao/albums/72157717403887353>

### Photos: VNG provides COVID-19 testing to Challenge

<https://www.flickr.com/photos/vanguardpao/albums/72157717858797148>

### Photos: VNG standing guard in Washington, D.C.

<https://www.flickr.com/photos/vanguardpao/albums/72157717893089676>

### Photos: Virginia, DC leaders visit Soldiers guarding capital

<https://www.flickr.com/photos/vanguardpao/albums/72157717876952458>

