

# Va. National Guard to field mobile vaccination teams

The Virginia National Guard is reconfiguring the task force currently conducting COVID-19 testing and mask fit training to create mobile vaccination teams to provide additional capacity for the statewide vaccination program.

The new teams will consist of Army and Air National Guard medics trained and certified by the Virginia Department of Health to administer the vaccines. These teams will also include supervisory, medical, administrative and logistics specialists that manage the operations of the team.

The VNG plans to reconfigure its current testing task force into five mobile vaccination teams. Each team is expected to provide a capacity of up to 250 vaccines a day in support of localities. The mobile teams will remain deployed under the direction of the Virginia Department of Emergency Management and Virginia Department of Health.

The teams will also conduct COVID-19 testing, as needed.

The VNG has a limited number of medical providers available due to other military operational requirements and planned overseas deployments.

Read more: <http://go.usa.gov/xsfku>



Virginia National Guard personnel administer the COVID-19 vaccine to Virginia Gov. Ralph Northam and Virginia First Lady Pamela Northam March 15, 2021, at the Executive Mansion in Richmond, Virginia.

## Virginia National Guard News Headlines

### 116th, MTC Soldiers claim 2021 Best Warrior titles

Virginia National Guard Soldiers representing the Staunton-based 116th Infantry Brigade Combat Team and Maneuver Training Center Fort Pickett have claimed top honors at the 2021 VNG Best Warrior Competition, which concluded with an awards ceremony March 21, 2021, at Fort Pickett, Virginia.

Read more: <https://go.usa.gov/xstg8>

### 'Buddy Aid' training takes new approach to sexual assault response

Eight Army National Guard victim advocates from five states attended a new training program designed to help respond to sexual assault March 1, 2021, at the State Military Reservation in Virginia Beach, Virginia.

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

### Youth Program salutes children with personalized certificates

April is the Month of the Military Child, a special month to recognize and pay tribute to military families and their children for the daily sacrifices and for their commitment, courage, and unconditional support of our Armed Forces.

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

### Washington D.C. mission required unique transportation plan

When Virginia National Guard traveled to Washington, D.C., to assist civilian law enforcement at the 59th Presidential Inauguration, the large-scale, short-notice mission in the middle of a pandemic required a unique transportation plan.

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

## 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>

## Vaccine clinic open to troops, TRICARE beneficiaries, DoD retirees

The Virginia National Guard COVID-19 Vaccination Clinic is fully operational at Fort Pickett, and any service member, TRICARE beneficiary or Department of Defense retiree may schedule an appointment to receive their vaccination. Virginia Department of Military Affairs employees and members of the Virginia Defense Force are also eligible to receive a vaccination at the clinic. For more details about eligibility and scheduling, please visit the official VNG COVID-19 Vaccination Resource Page at <https://va.ng.mil/COVID-19/Vaccine/>.

All VNG Soldiers and Airmen are encouraged to get the vaccine, but it is optional.

“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.

“Many Virginia National Guard service members have already received COVID vaccines manufactured by Moderna, and more than 32 million COVID vaccines have been administered in the United States, including more than 15,000 pregnant people, all with no significant adverse effect,” said Col. Frank Y. Yang, the Virginia Air National Guard state surgeon.

“There is no known association between COVID vaccinations and infertility,” Yang said. “These vaccines are not incorporated into the human genome and are not passed down to future offspring.”

Yang explained both the Pfizer/BioNTech and Moderna vaccines have no live virus, weakened or dead virus, so it is not possible to catch or transmit COVID by getting vaccinated. Because there is no virus in these vaccines, there is no risk to any family member, including ill or immune-compromised family members.

“These vaccines provide 94-95% protection against COVID infections, and vaccination is the best weapon against COVID along with masking, social distancing and hand washing,” Yang said. “These constitute the best response available to us for your health and safety, the health and safety of your families and those you come into contact at work and in your home communities.”

Yang said it is understandable for service members to have questions about the vaccine and offered these additional key points:

- These vaccines contain messenger RNA, specifically a short strand of mRNA, that codes for proteins in the surface spikes. The vaccine works by delivering these short strands of mRNA into host human cells, and the cells then make spike proteins. The proteins made by our own cells then elicit an immune response.

- The mRNA strands are fragile and become destroyed by human cells, leaving no permanent trace and are not incorporated into the human genome.



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- 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.

Yang said that as with many other vaccines, reactions such as aches at the injection site and fatigue can happen and will vary among different individuals.

According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, there may be some side effects which are normal signs that your body is building protection. These side effects may affect your ability to do daily activities, but they should go away in a few days.

Read more: <http://go.usa.gov/xsfkZ>

### MORE ON THE WEB

#### VNG COVID-19 Vaccination Resource Page

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

#### 192nd Medical Group, Det. 1, welcomes new commander

<https://go.usa.gov/xstg7>

#### Task force commander humbled by opportunity to serve

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

#### Photos: VNG represents modern military at history event

<https://www.flickr.com/photos/vanguardpao/albums/72157718731860322>

#### Photos: 34th CST conducts field training exercise

<https://www.flickr.com/photos/vanguardpao/albums/72157718690040291>



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