MEMORANDUM FOR SECRETARIES OF THE MILITARY DEPARTMENTS
CHAIRMAN OF THE JOINT CHIEFS OF STAFF
UNDER SECRETARIES OF DEFENSE
CHIEFS OF THE MILITARY SERVICES
CHIEF OF THE NATIONAL GUARD BUREAU
COMMANDERS OF THE COMBATANT COMMANDS
GENERAL COUNSEL OF THE DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE
ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF DEFENSE FOR LEGISLATIVE AFFAIRS
ASSISTANT TO THE SECRETARY OF DEFENSE FOR PUBLIC AFFAIRS
DIRECTOR OF ADMINISTRATION AND MANAGEMENT
DIRECTORS OF THE DEFENSE AGENCIES
DIRECTORS OF THE DOD FIELD ACTIVITIES

SUBJECT: Secretarial Designee Status for Select Department of Defense Civilian Employee and Contractor Employee Dependents Outside the United States for the Limited Purpose of Receiving Coronavirus Disease 2019 Vaccinations

Secretarial Designee status is authorized for the group of individuals who are described below and who are not otherwise eligible for care at a Department of Defense (DoD) military medical treatment facility (MTF). Individuals in this group will be allowed access to an MTF outside the United States (hereafter “overseas MTF”), on a space-available and reimbursable basis, for the limited purpose of receiving DoD-provided coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19) vaccinations. Third-party collection of information regarding the health insurance plan for each individual seeking vaccination, as appropriate and if available, will be obtained by the overseas MTF to enable DoD to seek recoupment of vaccination administration expenses through individuals’ health insurers.

DoD civilian employees and DoD contractor personnel overseas, directly supporting the DoD, are currently eligible to receive direct care at MTFs on a space-available and fully reimbursable basis, and are authorized to be offered DoD-provided COVID-19 vaccinations.1 The groups of individuals covered by this Secretarial Designee status designation are U.S. citizen dependents of DoD civilian employees and U.S. citizen dependents of DoD contractor personnel performing in support of DoD missions under contract, who are accompanying such DoD civilian employees or DoD contractor personnel at locations outside the United States, and who were not authorized or sponsored by the DoD to accompany the civilian employees or contractor

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personnel. These dependents will be offered COVID-19 vaccinations in accordance with the DoD Population Schema and the terms of this memorandum.

Individuals covered by this Secretarial Designee status designation may be offered COVID-19 vaccinations at an overseas MTF on a space-available and reimbursable basis. An initial COVID-19 vaccination may, depending on the vaccine’s emergency use authorization (EUA) terms and conditions, and in accordance with Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices/Center for Disease Control and Prevention (ACIP/CDC) recommendations, be followed by a second vaccine dose, to be provided in accordance with the EUA-recommended interval. The ACIP/CDC states that the second dose should be administered as close to the recommended interval as possible. If this is not feasible, the second dose may be scheduled up to 42 days after the first dose.

Secretarial Designee status pursuant to this memorandum does not authorize any individual in this group to receive any other inpatient or outpatient medical care from DoD beyond any necessary medical intervention provided in association with the recommended post-COVID-19 vaccination observation period. Follow-on medical care (other than the administration of a second vaccine dose, as required) will be provided through each individual's existing health care plans or personal health care providers.

The Secretarial Designee status for this group of individuals will remain in effect until the vaccination protocol is complete for all eligible individuals (one or two vaccine doses per individual, as required) or termination of the National Emergency Concerning the Novel Coronavirus Disease Outbreak initially issued in Presidential Proclamation 9994 of March 13, 2020, whichever occurs first. DoD Component heads will establish an administrative process to verify whether an individual is covered by this designation and identify, in writing, covered individuals who intend to receive a COVID-19 vaccine at an overseas MTF, prior to offering any vaccines. This verification authority may be delegated in writing no lower than the installation commander level. The verification authority will, in turn, provide these verified names to the overseas MTF Commander to enable vaccinating individuals in this group, including contacting and appointment scheduling. The verification authority or delegatee will maintain rosters of individuals in this group vaccinated in accordance with this memorandum that will include the specific COVID-19 vaccine administered to each individual.

Virginia S. Penrod
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