**NATIONAL GUARD BUREAU**
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NGB-J1-TN 27 October 2011

MEMORANDUM FOR THE HUMAN RESOURCE OFFICERS OF ALL STATES, THE COMMONWEALTH OF PUERTO RICO, THE U. S. VIRGIN ISLANDS, GUAM, AND THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

SUBJECT: Guidance to Allow Dual-Status National Guard Technicians to Receive Influenza Vaccine While in Technician Status (TN-11-24)

1. References:

a. Memorandum, NGB, NGB-J1-TN-L, 4 February 2008, subject: Assignment of Military Training Duties to Title 32 National Guard Technicians (TN-08-03) (enclosed).

b. AR 40-562/BUMEDINST 6230.I5A/AFJI 48-110/CG COMDTINST M6230.4F, Immunizations and Chemoprophylaxis, 29 September 2006, Chapter 3-2, b (6).

c. OPM Memorandum for Heads of Executive Departments and Agencies, Immunizations of Federal Workers with 2009 H1N1 and Seasonal Flu Vaccines, 30 September, 2009.

d. AR 40-501, Standards of Medical Fitness, 23 August 2010.

2. Purpose: To issue guidance (in accordance with reference a. paragraph 6), to read: "National Guard Technicians may receive the influenza (flu) vaccine and only the flu vaccine on a voluntary basis when offered during any scheduled flu vaccine activity on the installation or by the Medical Unit during Technician duty hours."

3. Background:

a. Influenza virus (seasonal and H1N1) is a real threat, causing an annual average of 36,000 deaths and 225,000 hospital admissions in the United States. Results from current studies indicate that young healthy adults (i.e. military populations) are more vulnerable to the H1N1 virus (swine flu). The H1N1 virus was responsible for at least 2,100 deaths and 42,000 hospitalizations in 2009-2010.

b. The current trivalent flu vaccine is effective and protects against seasonal flu and H1N1. The vaccine is the best way to prevent influenza and its complications and is recommended by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). Immunization is mandatory for all military personnel.

c. The flu vaccine is safe. The risk for severe or life threatening reactions ranges from 1 in 100,000 to 1 in 1,000,000 in our military population when patients are properly screened. In addition, the Vaccine Injury Compensation Program is a federally mandated program that is the primary source for compensation in vaccine-related injury claims.

d. In accordance with (IAW) AR 40-562/AFJI 48-110 the installation or activity commander, upon recommendation from the appropriate medical authority, will provide immunizations against diseases that may be a significant cause of lost work hours for federal civilian employees. By extrapolation the influenza vaccine is therefore a mechanism to prevent disease and promote productivity within the technician workforce. Such immunizations are voluntary and to be given at no cost to the employee.

4. Further implementation guidance:

a. While in Title 32 National Guard Technician status, employees can voluntarily receive influenza vaccine as indicated in the OPM memorandum. Supervisors can allow, but not direct, technicians to participate in the flu vaccine program. It is strictly voluntary and there is to be no retribution for employees who decline to participate.

b. Each state should consult with their Judge Advocate General for proper implementation of this program.

c. Each state should consult with their local medical authority or state surgeon for the proper medical implementation of this program IAW AR 40-562.

5. The point of contact for this memorandum is Brenda Decruise, Deputy Chief, Technician Personnel Division, at DSN 327-1478, 703-607-1478, or Brenda.Decruise@us.army.mil.

Encl

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