



Biden Admin To Announce Mandatory Vaccinations For All Active Duty US Military

Description

USA: US Secretary of Defense Lloyd Austin – the [former Raytheon](#) guy – is expected to announce a **mandatory vaccine policy for all 1.3 million active-duty US military** on Friday. It will follow a [similar mandate](#) issued last week for all federal employees and on-site contractors, including the Defense Department's civilian employees.



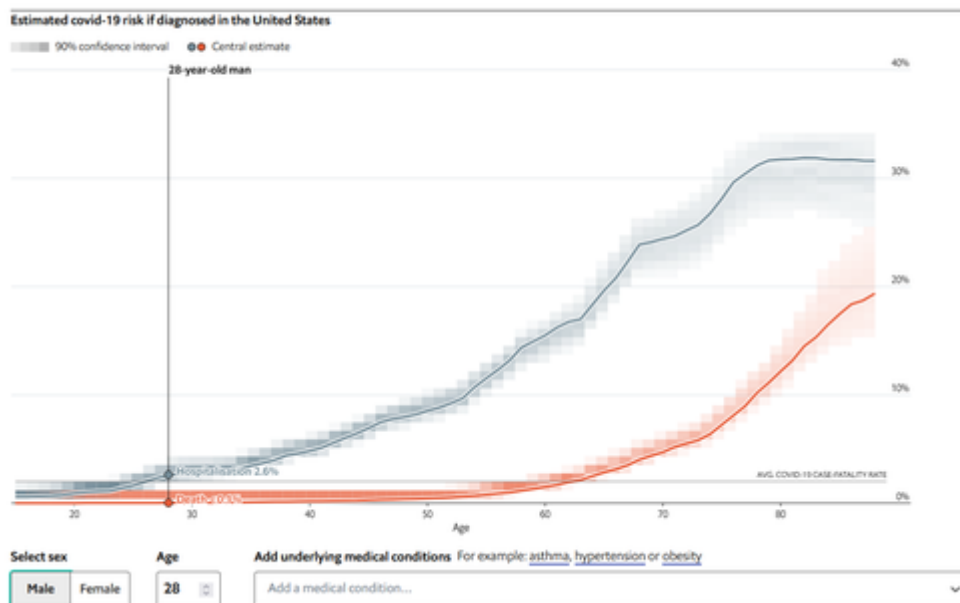
Defense Secretary Lloyd Austin speaks to service members about the coronavirus vaccine in this screenshot of a video released by the Pentagon, Wednesday, Feb. 24, 2021. (Department of Defense)

Notably, in February **nearly one-third of US troops refused to take the vaccine**, a statistic confirmed a week later in a [New York Times](#) poll that found “Roughly one-third of troops on active duty or in the National Guard have declined to take the vaccine.”

At present, about 64% of active-duty forces are fully vaccinated.



According to a 2018 DoD military demographics report ([p. 40](#)), the average active-duty military member is **28.2-years old**, which according to [The Economist's](#) estimated Covid-19 risk calculator, puts the risk of death for active-duty men at **less than 0.1%**, and hospitalization at 2.6%. For active-duty women, the risk of death is also less than 0.1%, and hospitalization 1.6%.



Screenshot via *The Economist*

In addition to the extremely low mortality rate – **combined with the fact that vaccinated individuals can still contract and transmit Covid-19**, albeit at lower rates, perhaps the largely young and fit members of the military are hesitant over the fact that the FDA has yet to approve it for full use.

In February, the *Times* stated that “The vaccine, unlike many other inoculations, is not required by the military at this time **because it has been approved for emergency use** by the Food and Drug Administration,” adding “**Once it becomes a standard, approved vaccine**, the military can order troops to take the shot.”

Not the case

According to [Fox News](#), President Biden (‘s team) asked the Justice Department to look into how they could legally force people to take a vaccine which has yet to be approved by the Food and Drug Administration – to which **DOJ officials responded it would simply require a presidential waiver**.

*Officials told Fox News that **Austin will make his recommendation to the White House tomorrow, and the formal announcement is expected to come Friday.** About **64% of active-duty forces are fully vaccinated.** Among all U.S. adults, about 70% have received at least one shot.*

Last week, Biden said federal employees and on-site contractors would be required to get the vaccine or be subject to regular testing.

The requirement affected the Defense Department's civilian employees but did not extend to active-duty service members. The upcoming application to active-duty service members was first reported by the New York Times. –[Fox News](#)

At present, roughly 50% of the US is vaccinated, while 58% have had at least one dose of the vaccine.

by Tyler Durden

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