



Ohio National Guard Federal Employee Benefits Bulletin

Bulletin Number: OH-13	Date: 19 October 2021
Applicability: National Guard (NG) Technicians (T5 and T32)	Subject: Federal Employee Workers Compensation Coverage for COVID-19 Vaccine

Background: On September 9th, 2021, President Biden issued an Executive Order (E.O.) 14043 mandating the coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19) vaccine for Federal civilian employees. The order directs each agency to implement a program that requires the COVID-19 vaccine for all civilian employees, with exceptions only as required by law. As such, employees impacted by the mandate who receive the required COVID-19 vaccinations on or after the date of the E.O. may be afforded coverage under the Federal Employees' Compensation Act (FECA) for any adverse reactions to the vaccine itself and for any injuries sustained while obtaining the vaccination.

Purpose: To provide guidance on coverage for claims for injury on or after September 9th, 2021, resulting from receipt of the mandated COVID-19 vaccination for Federal employees. Claims from T32 Technicians are not covered due to the Ohio National Guard policy which requires T32 Technicians to receive vaccinations in a military status.

COVID-19 Workers Compensation Claims: Federal employees must utilize ECOMP to file any workers compensation claims to include all COVID related claims (<https://www.ecomp.dol.gov>). The COVID-19 vaccination is a specific event occurring during a single work shift, and therefore any adverse actions or injuries will be reported on a CA-1 form, Notice of Traumatic Injury. Where two vaccinations are required several weeks apart, reactions to each are considered as separate claims. If the employee received the first vaccination prior to the September 9, 2021 EO, only adverse actions or injuries related to the second vaccination will be covered by the agency. Examples of such injuries include but are not limited to accidents while commuting a reasonable distance to and from the vaccination site and slip and fall injuries occurring at the vaccination site.

The executive order requires full vaccination, which is considered to be two shots of the Pfizer-BioNTech COVID-19 Vaccine, two shots of the Moderna COVID-19 Vaccine, or one shot of the Janssen COVID-19 Vaccine. The order does not cover or mandate booster vaccinations. Should there be any changes regarding approved vaccination brands or mandated vaccination frequencies, the FECA program will publish additional guidance.

For any other questions or concerns regarding any of the information listed above or on any Technician Benefits please contact the Benefits email distro at: ng.oh.oharnq.list.j1-hro-benefits@mail.mil.