

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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MIDWEST HONOR FLIGHT TRIPS TO WASHINGTON REMAIN ON HOLD

Vaccination will be required for 2021 Missions once travel resumes

ARLINGTON, Va. (April 23, 2021) – The Honor Flight Network has released a statement that will be of interest to the Veterans and Guardians on our waitlist, as well as to our volunteers. While 2021 Honor Flights remain postponed nationwide until at least August 15, the Honor Flight Network has announced that, once it has been determined that it is safe to resume flights, proof of full vaccination will be required for Veterans and their Guardians who take an Honor Flight in 2021. Mandatory vaccination will be just one of the safety measures that will be implemented.

Veterans who choose not to be vaccinated (or who are not able to be vaccinated) will remain on our "fly list" until the Honor Flight Network removes this mandatory safety measure and will then be added to flights in the order that their applications were received (as usual). Guardians who travel with our Veterans, along with our volunteers, will also be required to present proof of vaccination before flight day and bring their vaccination proof along on flight day for any flights that take place in 2021. We do not yet know whether this requirement will extend into 2022. The Honor Flight Network stated that there will be no exceptions to this rule.

While we do not yet have information about when or how the proof of vaccination will need to be submitted or presented, we wanted the Veterans and Guardians on our fly list to know about this requirement with plenty of time to plan for compliance. "Fully vaccinated" is defined by the Honor Flight Network as having received the second dose of the Moderna or Pfizer vaccine at least two weeks prior to the flight date or the single dose Johnson & Johnson vaccine 28 days prior to the flight. There is no information yet about "boosters" or whether or not those might be required in the future.

"Our first priority on every Midwest Honor Flight Mission is the safety of our Veterans, Guardians, and Crew," says Aaron Van Beek, the President of Midwest Honor Flight. "Should we have the chance to fly this fall, we will be implementing these precautions alongside the Honor Flight Network so we can continue to carry out our Mission without forcing Veterans to choose between their health and this once-in-a-lifetime experience."

The Honor Flight Network's Board of Directors and Midwest Honor Flight's Board of Directors will continue to consult public health guidance before officially resuming trips and announcing final protocols. Veterans and families with questions about the COVID-19 vaccines are encouraged to watch a free, live webinar hosted by the Honor Flight Network on May 6 at 6:00 PM Central Time. The webinar will include a presentation by Dr. Jane Kim, Chief Consultant for Preventive Medicine at the VA's National Center for Health Promotion and Prevention. A webinar link has been posted to www.honorflight.org for registration.

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