



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

August 20, 2021

21-38

CONTACT: Lt. Col. Darrin Haas

OFFICE: 615.313.0662

Darrin.w.haas.mil@mail.mil

Tennessee National Guard continues COVID-19 response amid Delta variant

NASHVILLE, Tenn. – Since March 2020, the Soldiers and Airmen of the Tennessee National Guard have been working alongside and supporting the Tennessee Department of Health, Tennessee Emergency Management Agency, and various other state and local agencies to combat the spread of COVID-19.

Thousands of Tennessee Guardsmen have volunteered to help during the pandemic. Over the last 17 months, anywhere from 250-700 Guardsmen have been actively supporting the testing and vaccination efforts across the state. This has resulted in Tennessee Guardsmen supporting the testing of more than 920,000 Tennesseans and the vaccination of over 1 million.

Currently, there are more than 580 Soldiers and Airmen providing support to 58 counties in Tennessee by helping with testing, vaccinations, and administrative support to health care providers.

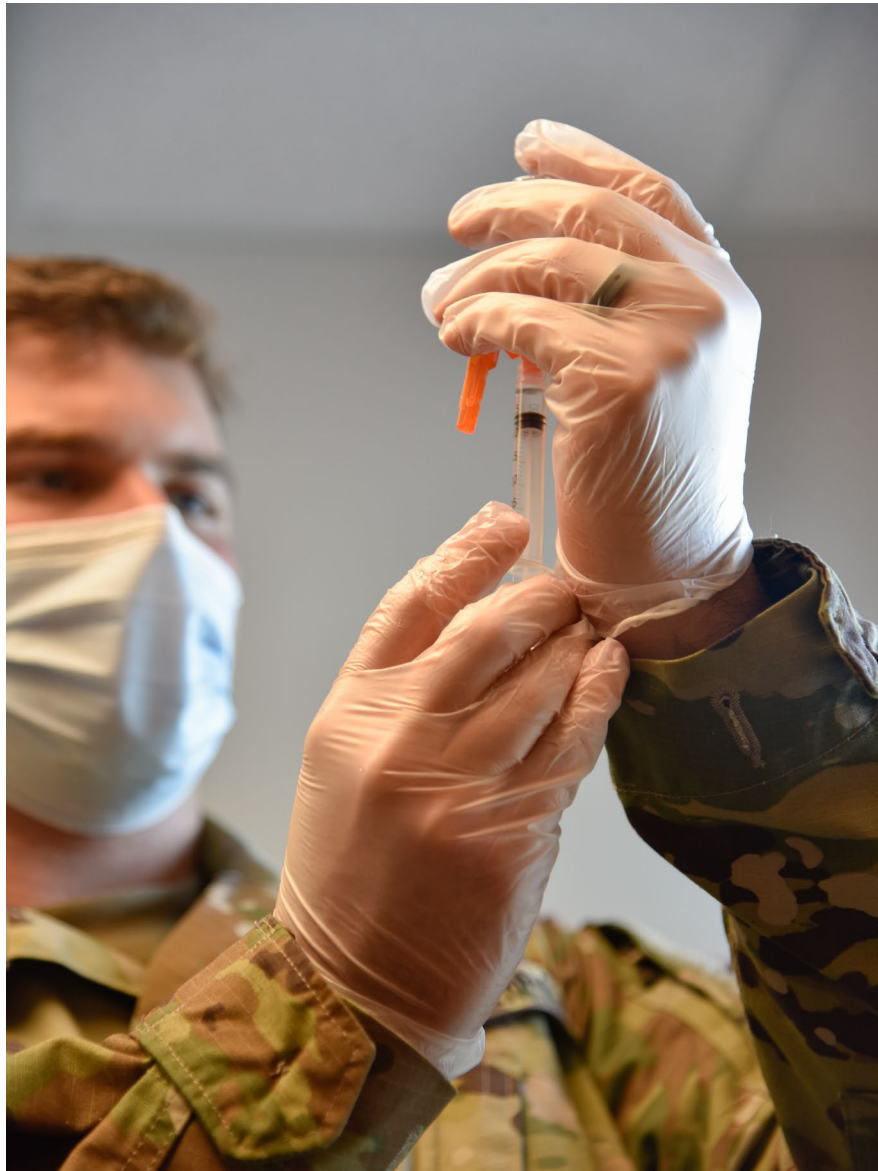
Earlier this week the Tennessee National Guard began staffing support to various hospitals at the request of the Tennessee Department of Health. Starting on Aug. 20, the Tennessee National Guard sent 20 Guardsmen to Baptist Hospital in Memphis and two Guardsmen to Lafollette Healthcare in Campbell County to expand our COVID-19 support. The Guardsman are capable of working in many types of hospital units and are able to help with administrative tasks.

The Tennessee National Guard is also providing five support personnel to Nashville's Mid-Cumberland Regional Hospital Office to assist in the schools call center.

Over the course of the pandemic, Soldiers and Airmen have also established temporary testing sites in focus areas, tested vulnerable populations at long-term care facilities, county and state corrections facilities, public housing, and many other locations across the state. They established Infectious Disease Teams that visit hospitals and alternative care centers to help develop plans and processes that prevent and decrease COVID-19 transmissions within the facilities. Guardsmen have also provided administrative and medical assistance to hospitals, collected and distributed Personal Protective Equipment, and conducted various other task as requested through TEMA.

As the COVID-19 pandemic continues, the Tennessee National Guard is prepared and ready to support any request for assistance through TEMA.

- (30) -



Spc. Anthony Spencer with the Tennessee National Guard prepares a vaccination dose for a patient at the Trousdale County Health Department on June 9. (Photo by Lt. Col. Darrin Haas)



Pfc. William Orton, a cavalry scout assigned to Newport's O Troop, 4th Squadron, 278th Armored Cavalry Regiment, explains the COVID-19 vaccination process to a resident in Decatur on June 15. Orton has assisted several sites since he joined the COVID-19 Task Force in February. (Photo by Sgt. Finis L. Dailey, III)



Sgt. Joseph Brummett, a combat medic with Henderson's Headquarters and Headquarters Troop, 1st Squadron, 278th Armored Cavalry Regiment, prepares to administer a COVID-19 vaccination in Jasper on June 15. Brummett has participated in the Tennessee National Guard's COVID-19 Task Force since April 2020. (Photo by Sgt. Finis L. Dailey, III)



Airman 1st Class Marialuz Deavers, a combat medic with Nashville's 118th Medical Group, fills a syringe with a dose of COVID-19 vaccine in Cookeville. Deavers has been administering COVID-19 tests and vaccines since March 2020, when Gov. Bill Lee activated the Tennessee National Guard to support the Tennessee Department of Health's response to the COVID-19 pandemic. (Photo by Sgt. Finis L. Dailey, III)

All Tennessee Army and Air National Guard press releases can be found at
<https://www.tn.gov/military/news.html>

###