

October 16, 2020/HPCON Change COVID Q&A

Primary JBER COVID update page: <https://www.jber.jb.mil/coronavirus/>

Q: What will the visitor policy be? Will retirees still be allowed on base? How about people with DBIDS cards? Will base passes still be allowed for visiting family members? How about moving companies?

A: No changes are required to the base visitor policy at this time.

Q: What has changed to warrant HPCON Charlie?

A: In the last 7-10 days we've seen significant increases on base, mirroring what we're seeing in Anchorage and across Alaska.

As we studied how COVID is spreading, we're seeing increases in transmission in the work-place, at off-duty social gatherings, including at large outdoor gatherings, and case-specific poor adherence to general mitigation measures, such as the use of cloth face-coverings

Q: What will be the policy for Halloween?

A: A decision on Halloween activities authorized on the installation will be made next week and will be informed by the current COVID environment.

Q: What are the off base restrictions we have to follow?

A: Airmen assigned to the 673d Air Base Wing will not enter business establishments that primarily engage in preparing and serving alcoholic beverages for on-site consumption. However, those assigned to USARAK or other mission partners need to check with their command teams to check what restrictions might be in place. All restrictions are liable to change based on changing COVID conditions.

Q: What is the leave policy for military and civilian personnel both within and outside of Alaska? Does the 14-day ROM upon return count as leave?

A: Questions about individual leave requests need to be addressed with your unit's chain of command.

Q: Is this Mission Essential only reporting? What will be the teleworking requirements?

A: This is not mission-essential reporting. Command teams have the leeway to make the determination of who needs to physically be at work to make the mission happen. Given the increases in work-place transmission, individual commands will take action to limit the physical presence of personnel in the work place and ensure appropriate mitigation measures are in place - this includes strict adherence to our mask policies. Personnel may be required to telework or be restricted from workplaces subject to command and supervisor determinations in order to reduce spreading the virus. Questions about your individual work schedule should be directed to your chain of command.

Q: How will PCS orders be affected?

A: The HPCON Charlie declaration will not impact PCS movement for Air Force or Army personnel. Military members that have any other questions related to their PCS movements are encouraged to contact their chain of command.

Q: What will the Commissary/AAFES access policy be?

A: Access to both the Commissary and AAFES will not be affected. Visitors will be still be allowed and IDs will be checked at the register.

Q: What will CDC operations look like?

A: CDC operations will continue in their current state. However, health screening measures are being updated. So parents may want to build in some additional time at drop off/pick up times. We ask that customers continue to be patient and flexible, and comply with the preventative measures our staff implement. Our ability to continue to provide this vital service depends on compliance with these measures.

Q: What will operations at these facilities look like? (Polar Bowl, Arctic Oasis, Warrior Zone, the various DFAC's, both fitness centers)

A: Because contact tracing related to positive cases on base have not been linked to many of our recreation and support facilities, current services will continue. However, customers can expect enhanced screening measures at these facilities. Again, we ask that customers continue to be patient and flexible, and comply with the preventative measures our staff implements. Check out the JBER Installation Dashboard at <https://www.jber.jb.mil/Coronavirus/> for status of services. For FSS facilities, check out <https://www.jber.jb.mil/Coronavirus/>

Q. Is the “drive up” self-referral testing open for veterans and dependents?

A: Yes, self-referral testing is open to all TRICARE eligible beneficiaries, however self-referral is only for individuals experiencing COVID-19 symptoms including, but not limited to fever, cough or shortness of breath from 0700-1500 daily. Testing for any other reason to include travel or employment clearance may not be self-referred.

*For individuals who are NOT symptomatic, but are concerned about potentially being exposed to COVID, please contact Public Health at: usaf.jber.673-mdg.mbx.public-health@mail.mil

Check out full self-referral information here: <https://www.jber.jb.mil/coronavirus/>

Q. Will my future in-person appointments be affected?

A: The JBER hospital continues to provide required healthcare services and is actively working to protect our patients and staff though mandating mask wearing, hand hygiene and limiting the number of non-patients in the hospital. We do not foresee canceling any appointments at this time. We will continue maximizing virtual appointment options where clinically appropriate to meet the needs of our patient's and help maintain a safe JBER community.