



**DEPARTMENT OF THE AIR FORCE
HEADQUARTERS, JOINT BASE ELMENDORF-RICHARDSON
JOINT BASE ELMENDORF-RICHARDSON, ALASKA**

MEMORANDUM FOR ALL JOINT BASE ELMENDORF-RICHARDSON PERSONNEL

FROM: JOINT BASE ELMENDORF-RICHARDSON INSTALLATION COMMANDER

SUBJECT: JBER COVID-19 Installation Policy Memorandum

- References:** (a) DoD Instruction 6200.03, Public Health Emergency Management (PHEM) Within the DoD, 28 Mar 19
- (b) "Health Protection Condition (HPCON) ALPHA Declaration," 14 Jun 21
- (c) Acting Under Secretary of Defense for Personnel and Readiness Memorandum, "Force Health Protection Guidance (Supplement 20) – Department of Defense Guidance for Personnel Traveling During the Coronavirus Disease 2019 Pandemic," 12 Apr 21
- (d) "Consolidated USINDOPACOM Force Health Protection Guidance," 26 Apr 21
- (e) Under Secretary of Defense for Personnel and Readiness Memorandum, "Force Health Protection Guidance (Supplement 15) – Department of Defense Guidance for Coronavirus Disease 2019 Laboratory Testing Services," 11 Jan 21
- (f) Secretary of Defense Memorandum, "Use of Masks and Other Public Health Measures," 4 Feb 21
- (g) Secretary of the Air Force Memorandum, "Department of the Air Force Guidance on Use of Masks," 16 Feb 21
- (h) JBER Installation Commander Memorandum, "JBER Additional Exceptions to Mask Wear Requirement," 14 May 21
- (i) USINDOPACOM Memorandum, "COVID-19 Restriction of Movement (ROM) requirements for HQ USINDOPACOM and Service Components in Hawaii," 4 Mar 21
- (j) PACAF Battle Staff Directive, "Restriction of Movement (ROM) Exemptions"
- (k) Secretary of Defense Memorandum, "Update to Conditions-based Approach to Coronavirus Disease 2019 Personnel Movement and Travel Restrictions", 15 Mar 21
- (l) USARPAC OPOD, "ANNEX T: #21-03-023/FRAGO 9 to 20-09-055, USARPAC COVID-19 Response"
- (m) "HPCON Procedures for Northern Edge (NE), Distant Frontier (DF) and RED FLAG-Alaska (RF-A) Participants" Reporting Instructions, 23 Apr 21
- (n) Acting Under Secretary of Defense for Personnel and Readiness Memorandum, "Force Health Protection Guidance (Supplement 18) – Department of Defense Guidance for Protecting Personnel in Workplaces during the Response to the Coronavirus Disease 2019 Pandemic," 17 Mar 21
- (o) Deputy Secretary of Defense Memorandum, "Updated Mask Guidance for Vaccinated Persons," 13 May 21
- (p) Deputy Secretary of Defense Memorandum, "Exemption from the Requirement to Undergo Restriction of Movement on Arrival in the United States for Fully Vaccinated Foreign Military and Civilian Personnel on Official Department of Defense Travel during the Coronavirus Disease 2019 Pandemic," 8 Jun 21
- (q) Deputy Secretary of Defense Memorandum, "Updated Mask Guidance for all DoD Installations and Other Facilities," 28 Jul 21

1. This memorandum applies to personnel who live, work and recreate on JBER as well as visitors to the installation. It supersedes JBER Installation Commander Memorandum, "JBER COVID-19

Installation Policy Memorandum,” 14 Jun 21. This memorandum is guided by and summarizes pre- and post-travel guidance contained in reference (c). *The policy and procedures outlined in this memorandum are subject to change with more restrictive measures and without notice based on evolving virus epidemiology, local conditions, and HHQ guidance.*

2. Over the past month COVID-19 positive cases in Alaska and at JBER have increased and the threat of COVID to our community continues. Community transmission of COVID-19 is occurring and community transmission rates in the local area are fluctuating between substantial and high. The vaccine remains our best defense. New strains of the virus are proving more contagious and we must remain vigilant. As the State and Municipality continues to review and update their mitigation controls, we will continue to synchronize our installation activities; however, there will be situations where we maintain greater restrictions than local government controls.

3. JBER’s priorities remain 1) the health and safety of our military and civilian personnel and their families; 2) safeguarding and preserving our national security capabilities; and 3) supporting our local community and the state of Alaska’s response to the pandemic. The intent of this memo is to adjust current installation guidance to suppress wider spread and transmission of the virus within the on- and off-base communities. The installation health and safety guidelines are updated as detailed herein.

4. JBER Public Health Guidance:

a. Self-monitor health; seek immediate medical care (907-580-2778 option 1) if symptoms (cough, fever, or shortness of breath) develop. Otherwise if you are sick, PLEASE STAY HOME.

b. General: “fully immunized” is defined as 2 weeks after the second dose of a two-shot series, or 2 weeks after one dose in a single-shot series.

c. Mask Wear.

(1) Based off the substantial or high community transmission rate within our local area DoD requires all Service Members, Federal employees, onsite contractor employees, and visitors, **regardless of vaccination status, to wear a mask in an indoor setting** on the installation and other facilities, owned, leased or otherwise controlled by DoD (reference q).

(2) Per references (f), (g), and (q), exceptions are limited to: 1) inside private dwellings, 2) while driving in vehicles, if an individual is the lone operator or if all occupants in the vehicle are members of the same family group, 3) when an individual is in his or her own office *alone* with a closed door or *alone* with an open door and six-foot physical distancing is maintained, 4) when eating or drinking, 5) those with a medical exemption, 6) when actively exercising indoors and established mitigation controls are followed, 7) when necessary to reasonably accommodate a religious belief, 8) when wear interferes with use of personal protective, oxygen, or chemical equipment required for the performance of duties, 9) when clear or unrestricted visualization of verbal communication is essential to safe and effective military operations, 10) while operating machinery, if mask wear impairs safe operation (e.g., impairing vision of an operator who requires glasses to drive by fogging the lenses), 11) when using equipment, including musical equipment, to perform duties and the equipment cannot be operated when wearing a mask, 12) when the mask is required to be lowered briefly for identification or security purposes, or 13) if mask wear otherwise interferes in the performance of military duties. In all cases, once the situation, impairment or interference ceases, personnel will immediately don their mask. Non-compliance may result in disciplinary or debarment action.

(3) In addition to the above, all personnel on JBER regardless of vaccination status are required to wear a mask outdoors on JBER in the following cases: 1) when directed by a commander; 2) when experiencing symptoms consistent with COVID-19; and 3) when required by other federal, state, local, tribal, or territorial laws, rules, and regulations, including local business and workplace guidance.

(4) Per reference (f), personnel within Anchorage School District (ASD) facilities and vehicles within the installation are exempted from DoD guidelines. Personnel within ASD facilities and vehicles will follow ASD, municipal, state, and federal CDC safety and mitigation guidelines regarding mask wear and other appropriate public health measures. Mask wear mandates apply to children to the maximum extent possible, though children two and younger are exempt, and children five and younger are exempt when patrons at base Child and Youth Programs.

(5) Fitness Centers. Regardless of vaccination status all members will wear a mask in the fitness center unless actively working out. There is no capacity limit on fully immunized personnel. Capacity limits will remain in place for non-fully immunized patrons but will be re-evaluated in accordance with Public Health guidelines and recommendations. Non-fully immunized patrons are required to provide their DoD ID card upon entry for accounting purposes. Customers will retrieve their ID cards upon exiting the facility. Immunized customers who do not have their vaccine cards may still enter but will follow the same process/capacities as non-fully immunized customers. If capacity limits are reached, non-fully immunized customers will be directed to wait in line.

d. Maintain consistent personal hygiene, particularly frequent hand-sanitizing.

e. Maintain a daily routine for sanitation, i.e. disinfect workstations, common areas, etc.

f. In accordance with reference (q), if the level of community transmission in the Anchorage Municipality is low or moderate as determined in accordance with applicable CDC guidance and definitions, then the restrictions contained in Paragraph (4)(c)(1) of this policy memorandum will not apply to fully immunized personnel.

5. Quarantine and Restriction of Movement (ROM)

a. If Public Health determines an individual who has not been fully immunized has had close contact with a known positive case of COVID-19, that individual will be directed to quarantine for 10 days. PH may endorse a 7-day curtailed Return to Duty (RTD) option with testing on or after ROM day 5, no earlier than 48 hours preceding projected RTD date. This option is available to commanders for mission-essential tasks. Please make requests through: USAF JBER 673 MDG Mailbox Public Health usaf.jber.673-mdg.mbx.public-health@mail.mil. Irrespective of RTD, individuals who have not been fully immunized will abide by Alaska State and local Municipality Health Advisories. If Public Health determines an individual who has been fully immunized has had close contact with a known positive case of COVID-19, the individual will be recommended to test for COVID-19 at day 3-5 after the contact occurred. Regardless of current community transmission levels, the individual will be directed to wear a mask when indoors until either 14 days have elapsed or a negative day 3-5 COVID-19 test result is received. Fully vaccinated contacts of a COVID-19 positive case will not routinely be required to quarantine, but may be directed to do so at the discretion of Public Health.

b. Personnel who have not been fully immunized and return from *domestic travel*, as well as new arrivals, are allowed to enter all JBER storefronts immediately upon entry into Alaska while adhering to mask wear policies in para 4. All domestic travelers are authorized to return to duty in accordance with their unit chain of command procedures.

c. Personnel who have not been fully immunized and have returned from *international travel*, will enter a 10-day ROM and should take a COVID-19 test upon arrival to Alaska. Free testing options are available at Ted Stevens International Airport or multiple other community locations. Personnel are encouraged to take an optional, free, second community test on or after day 5 of the ROM. If no symptoms develop during that 10-day ROM and test results are negative, personnel may be returned to duty, with concurrence from their chain of command. The curtailed 7-day RTD option is available for mission-essential tasks, at the request of a commander in the grade of O-4 or higher, per procedures outlined in paragraph 5.a. This allows commanders to judiciously request early RTD. Irrespective of RTD, personnel will abide by Alaska State and local Municipality Health Advisories.

d. Personnel who are fully immunized will follow service guidance in ref (d) and (l) regarding ROM after international travel. Fully immunized personnel *may* return to duty *and* enter JBER store fronts immediately after travel, provided they are not feeling ill or experiencing any possible COVID-19 symptoms. Regardless of immunization status all personnel will adhere to the mask wear policies in para 4 and abide by Alaska State and local Municipality Health Advisories.

e. Travelers conducting official and unofficial travel between Hawaii and Alaska must follow the prescribed ROM guidance contained in reference (i). Exemptions apply to personnel who have fully recovered from a laboratory-confirmed diagnosis of COVID-19 infection within 90 days or have a current and completed COVID-19 immunization series more than 14 days prior to the date ROM would begin. However, if departing from Alaska to Hawaii, fully immunized personnel still require a pre-travel test. Additionally, service members should ensure they are following their respective service and Major Command guidance referenced (j) and (l) that applies to members of PACAF and USARPAC respectively. Irrespective of the ROM exemption, immunized personnel will abide by paragraph 5.c., and personnel who previously tested positive for COVID-19 will abide by paragraph 5.g.

f. Aircrew who are returning from travel, having exclusively performed official duties established under AMC FCIF or FAA SAFO COVID-19 mitigation protocols, are waived from installation ROM.

g. ROM personnel must remain in their domicile (lodging, quarters, etc.), but may go outside on premises or quarters for outdoor exercise and other routine tasks. Privately owned vehicles are considered an extension of the personnel's domicile and can be used to go through drive through or curbside option food service/pickup. Identified needs of personnel in ROM will be addressed by their unit of assignment. Personnel whose presence is required in the workplace by their supervisor may return to work during the ROM period IAW reference (n). Medical services at the JBER MTF are considered authorized activities while on ROM. However, elective or non-urgent services should be deferred until off ROM if possible, conducted as a virtual appointment, or coordinated with the clinic or PCM beforehand. Consult your care team via MHS-Genesis Patient portal or telephone via central appointment line, (907) 580-2778, for questions or to coordinate a medical service while on ROM.

h. Personnel who test positive for COVID-19 will not retest for 90 days after their initial positive test, unless specifically directed to do so by Public Health or a healthcare provider. If someone is within 90 days of a positive test, they must show proof of the positive test and proof of recovery (profile or medical provider note) when arriving to Alaska or returning from domestic travel outside Alaska, and should not retest upon entry into Alaska. Furthermore, in accordance with reference (e), any additional quarantine, post-travel ROM, and staying out of JBER store fronts is *not* necessary during the CDC-specified time period (90 days), unless command directed, as long as the individual remains symptom-free. Regardless, individuals must continue to abide by Alaska State and local Municipality Health Advisories.

i. Personnel who are fully immunized and remain asymptomatic may refrain from routine COVID-19 testing, if feasible, and not otherwise required by more restrictive policy or guidance.

j. Public Health will continue to monitor CDC and Office of the Secretary of Defense sources for science updates and guidance regarding the COVID-19 vaccine. They will provide recommendations for activities and mitigation protocols accordingly. Personnel will continue to adhere to all current protocols contained in this policy memorandum to protect themselves and others. Public Health may advise that persons who have completed a vaccine series under an existing CDC Emergency Use Authorization (EUA) are not required to quarantine based on COVID-19 exposure if they meet both of the following:

- (1) Are fully immunized (2 weeks or more after receipt of final vaccine dose in series)
- (2) Have remained asymptomatic since the current COVID-19 exposure

k. All travelers must educate themselves on local mandates in the areas they plan to travel, including communities through which they will travel, and will follow them to the maximum extent practicable. Additionally, all personnel conducting official international air travel will be tested with a viral test 1-3 days before departure IAW testing guidance, reference (c).

l. Personnel arriving from out of Alaska that are participating in an exercise must comply with service, MAJCOM, and installation reporting instructions contained in references (m) and (p).

6. Private Gatherings: Private gatherings remain a risk of COVID-19 transmission. Socializing is also a very important part of living a full life. Private gatherings can be up to 50 total personnel, however private indoor gatherings on JBER are limited to no more than three family groups that are not fully immunized, and outdoor gatherings on JBER are limited to no more than five family groups that are not fully immunized. A family group is defined as a group of people who dwell in the same residence. Examples of a family group are: a single service member; roommates in either a house, apartment, dorm or barracks; or a family of seven. An au pair or other domestic aid may be considered part of a family group if, and only if, they share that group's dwelling as their primary residence.

7. Official Gatherings: Official gatherings are limited to 100 people indoors with appropriate distancing and mitigation controls. Unit commanders or comparable director level supervisors may approve gatherings of more than 100 people indoors with appropriate distancing and mitigation controls. Public Health guidance must be followed IAW paragraph 4. Unit commanders and directors are responsible for recording dates and names of persons at such a gathering for contact tracing purposes. Previously granted exceptions to policy that have approved mitigation controls, such as *military operations* or DFAC services, may continue to function. There are no limits on outdoor official gatherings, but social distancing and mask wear must still be followed. Outdoor events are encouraged over indoor events for large official gatherings such as commander's calls or changes of command.

8. Travelers from U.S. States and Territories seeking to access JBER: Individuals will follow current installation Public Health guidance, as detailed in paragraph 4 of this memorandum. All personnel regardless of immunization status returning from domestic travel are not required to ROM and *may enter* JBER store fronts immediately after travel, provided they are not feeling ill or experiencing any possible COVID-19 symptoms. *All personnel must comply with Alaska state and local Municipality Health Advisories, and respect all guidelines or restrictions imposed by local businesses.* Local information may be found at <https://covid19.alaska.gov/travelers/>.

9. Travelers from Foreign Countries seeking access to JBER: Individuals seeking access to JBER after travel from, or through, a foreign country will complete a ROM if required upon arrival to Alaska IAW reference (c), reference (d), service guidance and as described in paragraph 5 of this memorandum. If required to ROM individuals must not enter JBER store fronts for the entire duration of the ROM. ROM requirements differ for immunized and not fully immunized personnel. Individuals

living off-base should complete their required ROM prior to accessing the base. *For further detail on ROM periods and requirements individuals should refer to their chain of command or the POC in paragraph 14.* Hosts of travelers from Foreign Countries seeking access to JBER should contact Public Health for guidance on whether the hosts must quarantine. Foreign travelers to JBER are required to have a negative COVID-19 test no more than three days before travel before boarding a flight to the United States regardless of immunization status IAW reference (p). Fully immunized foreign travelers on official DoD travel are not required to ROM in the absence of more restrictive local guidance.

10. Determining Whether to Travel: A risk assessment, completed by the appropriate leader, is required for Service Members before all travel IAW reference (c). For DoD Civilian employees the risk assessment is mandatory for official travel and strongly encouraged for all other travel. For military members, foreign country leave requires approval by the Installation Commander and leave in the US outside the local area requires approval by the first O-5 or higher commander in the chain of command. The risk assessment of the health status of the traveler will include, at a minimum:

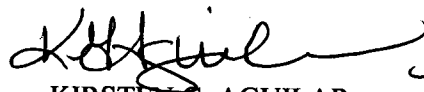
- a. Whether the individual has exhibited signs/symptoms of COVID-19 within previous 14 days.
- b. Whether the individual has had contact with anyone having, or known to have exhibited, signs or symptoms of COVID-19, or who has tested positive for COVID-19 within the previous 14 days.
- c. Whether the individual has traveled to a country, state, territory, or county with high or increasing COVID-19 transmission within the previous 14 days.
- d. Whether the individual is at increased risk of severe illness of COVID-19.
- e. Whether the individual is familiar with how to self-monitor and what actions to take if he or she develops COVID-19 symptoms or contracts COVID-19.
- f. Utilize the Defense Health Agency's Armed Forces Health Surveillance COVID-19 Dashboard that tracks the "Trajectory of Civilian COVID-19 Cases by County" available at: <https://go.intelink.gov/25BWvsS>; <https://covid-status.data.mil/#/>

11. Failure to Comply: Individuals who sponsor visitors onto JBER are responsible for their guests' conduct and compliance with guidance contained in this memorandum. Failure to comply with this directive may result in loss of sponsorship privileges, suspended base access, or debarment.

12. ROM Exceptions to Policy for Mission Critical Personnel: The USARAK Commanding General and Wing Commanders may assume risk and grant exceptions to policy for personnel (both Permanent and Temporary Duty) determined to be mission critical personnel to RTD. Any mission partner units not listed herein may contact 673 ABW/CV at 673abw.cc@us.af.mil or DSN 552-6738 for further guidance.

13. Commanders at all levels must ensure this guidance is briefed and made available to all personnel.

14. Address questions regarding this memorandum to 673 ABW/CV at (907) 552-6738.

 30 July 2021
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Commander