

## **PUBLIC HEALTH EMERGENCY ANNOUNCEMENT Q&A**

### **Base Access**

Q: I live on base, and my mom is traveling here to take care of my newborn baby for the next month. Can she still get on base to stay with me?

A: New visitor passes for those providing critical family services must be in possession of a signed Exception to Policy letter (ETP example attached) before a visitor pass will be issued.

Q: My family plans to visit me and my family. Will they be allowed on base? What if their access is denied?

A: Personnel may apply for an exception to this “Base Access” policy based on humanitarian or unusual situation from the Installation Commander or 673 ABW Vice Commander using the template attached, and with an endorsement from their unit commander in the grade of O-4 and above or comparable director level supervisor. Submit requests to 673abw.cc@us.af.mil.

Q: Are retirees still able to access base and use the Commissary?

A: Yes, and access to medical facilities, the Commissary, and the Exchange is unchanged.

Q: I’m a Uber/Lyft/taxi driver, and my pass expires in a couple weeks. What do I need to do to get an extension once it expires?

A: New Base Access passes for transportation service providers (Uber, Lyft, Taxis, etc) are suspended immediately. Personnel requiring transportation on base must use drivers with existing passes or find alternative means. Previously approved visitor passes will be honored until original date of expiration. When the Public Health Emergency Order is lifted, you will be able to request a new pass.

Q: I am new to the military and do not have a vehicle. Can I still use Uber/Lyft/Taxis for needed transportation?

A: Drivers for transportation services who already possess a valid base pass will still be permitted to use that pass. Please ensure that you only book transportation from those who have existing base access.

Q: Are we still able to access the Fort Richardson National Cemetery?

A: Yes. People visiting FRNC may receive a visitor pass, not to exceed 3 hours from time of issue. Please visit the Boniface Visitor Control Center to request a pass.

Q: I have a pass to receive non-emergency medical care at the JBER Medical Group, but I don’t have my own transportation. Will my driver be able to get a visitor pass?

A: No, your driver will not be able to get a visitor pass. However, you can still access the MDG via the “VA Link” at the VA Medical Center (1201 N. Muldoon Road). Pre-coordinate with the VA Police for access during duty or non-duty hours. In a medical emergency, go to a gate and identify your emergency. You will then follow standard medical protocol and instructions.

Q: How long will I be denied access from base if I’ve violated the restrictions?

A: A determination will be made by your chain of command.

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### **Mask Wear**

Q: I work in an office by myself. Do I have to wear a mask at all times?

A: No, but as soon as anyone approaches or enters you must put your mask on. You will also need to put your mask on whenever you leave your office.

Q: Do I need to wear a mask in my own vehicle?

A: Masks should be worn if you are in a vehicle with those who are not in your household. If you are driving alone you are not required to wear a mask.

Q: Has anything changed with regards to mask wear?

A: Yes, you must wear a mask at all times unless an exception applies. See the memo for details.

Q: I have a medical concern that prevents me from wearing a mask. What options do I have?

A: People who cannot wear masks for medical reasons will be required to wear a face shield instead, unless it is medically impossible.

Q: There are units that are not adhering to the mask requirement. How will this requirement be enforced further?

A: Every chain of command on JBER is charged with enforcement of these orders. We must all do our part in ensuring the safety of ourselves and those around us. If your unit isn't adhering to these guidelines, please elevate your concern to the next level up in your chain of command.

### **Work Attendance**

Q: If I am feeling sick but they are mild symptoms and are not effecting my ability to work, can I still report to work?

A: No. If you have any symptoms, even if they are mild, and you are a JBER hospital beneficiary, you should self-refer to the 673d Medical Group Respiratory Clinic for testing, open Mon-Sun, 7 A.M. – 3 P.M, 907-580-2778. If you are not a beneficiary, contact your civilian medical provider. They will give you more instructions based on your situation. Notify your chain of command to keep them informed of your situation. Do not enter the medical treatment facility, unless during an emergency, without consulting your medical team first.

Q: If a member of my household is experiencing symptoms of COVID-19, should I still go to work or should I get tested?

A: Notify your chain of command that a member of your household is experiencing symptoms and do not enter a workspace until you have been directed to do so.

Q: Someone who I have been working with has tested positive for COVID-19. Should I still go to work?

A: If someone you work with has tested positive and you feel any symptoms, you should be tested. If you do not feel any symptoms but were in close contact with the individual, please contact the 673d Medical Group at 907-580-2778 for further information. You should contact your leadership before reporting to work.

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Q: Are we back to mission essential reporting?

A: No, but the use of telework is highly encouraged when possible, and at the discretion of each unit commander. Work with your chain of command to determine your reporting instructions.

Q: With flu season here there will be many people that may have one or more of the same symptoms of COVID but not actually have it. If I have a cough, should I not go into work?

A: Any personnel with COVID-19 symptoms (included, but not limited to, fever, cough, headache, nausea) are not permitted to report to work. If you have any symptoms, even if they are mild, and you are a JBER hospital beneficiary, you should self-refer to the 673d Medical Group Respiratory Clinic for testing, open Mon-Sun, 7 A.M. – 3 P.M, 907-580-2778. They will give you more instructions based on your situation. If you are not a beneficiary, contact your civilian medical provider. Notify your chain of command to keep them informed of your situation. Do not enter the medical treatment facility, unless during an emergency, without consulting your medical team first.

Q: An individual in my workplace has been coughing all week, and I think they may have COVID. What should I do?

A: Talk with your supervisor about your concerns of potential spread of illness within the workplace. Any JBER hospital beneficiary with COVID-19 symptoms should self-refer to the 673d Medical Group Respiratory Clinic for testing, open Mon-Sun, 7 A.M. – 3 P.M, 907-580-2778. If you are not a beneficiary, contact an off-base testing center and your civilian care manager.

### **Private Gatherings**

Q: How do I report gatherings that violate installation restrictions?

A: You are encouraged to speak with individuals whose behavior violates installation restrictions. Notify your first sergeant or your chain of command if you can't resolve it on your own.

Q: I usually invite a single Soldier/Airman over for the holidays. Can I still do this?

A: Yes. If the gathering will consist of more than 2 family groups your unit Commander will have to approve it and attendance tracking will be required IAW PHE guidance.

Q: I am dating another military member. The last time we did this in the spring we were told to avoid all contact with each other. Can we see each other under the new guidelines?

A: Yes. Any private indoor gathering on JBER is limited to two family groups. A family group could be an individual living alone, or a family living together. Under this guidance, you are permitted to gather maintaining the two family group rule.

Q: What is the total number of people allowed at a private indoor gathering?

A: There is no specific number of people allowed at a private indoor gatherings, the restriction is based upon family groups. A maximum of two family groups are allowed together at a time.

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Q: With it getting very cold outside nobody will want to have an outdoor gathering. Why is it that 20+ people are allowed at an outdoor gathering but only 2 family groups can be at an indoor gathering?

A: Studies show that being outdoors can help limit the spread of COVID, and it is much easier to practice physical distancing outdoors.

Q: Why are there less people allowed at a gathering with food?

A: When food is involved, more people will be removing their masks in order to eat. As much as possible, we want to limit the amount of people removing masks at a gathering. This is also in line with the Municipality of Anchorage guidance.

### **Official Gatherings**

Q: A member of my office is separating/retiring/PCSing. Can we gather for a going-away in our shop?

A: Unit commanders in the grade of O-4 and above or comparable director level supervisors may approve gatherings up to 25 persons with proper distancing in an adequately ventilated space and the wear of face coverings.

Q: Should we continue to have meetings in our shop?

A: Meetings should be conducted virtually if possible. Keep operational and communication security at the forefront when planning meetings. If members must gather for in-person meetings, face coverings and physical distancing mandates must be adhered to.

Q: I already have a gathering that has been approved. Do I have to cancel this now?

A: This order does not revoke previously granted exceptions to policy that have approved mitigation controls; however, if your event is outside the parameters of the new restriction, revalidate approval for the event with your chain of command.

Q: Can we have an official gathering with up to 30 people if it is going to be held outside?

A: Unit commanders in the grade of O-4 and above or comparable director level supervisors may approve gatherings up to 30 persons with proper distancing in an adequately ventilated space and the wear of face coverings.

### **Other questions**

Q: What will CDC operations look like?

A: There are no changes projected for CDC operations. Health screenings will continue. We ask that customers continue to be patient and flexible, and comply with all preventive measures our staff implement. Our ability to continue to provide this vital service depends on compliance with these measures.

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 through mandating mask wearing, hand hygiene and limiting the

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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

Q: If I've already had and recovered from COVID, why do I need to wear a mask if the CDC says I can't get it again or pass it to anyone?

A: Our mask policy makes compliance standardized.

Q: Why are some establishments (Church, store, etc.) where one may come in contact with a large group exempt but restaurants and bars are not?

A: We're aligned with the Mayor's mandates for shopping and worshipping in the community. Bars and restaurants require removing masks to consume food and beverages on site and extend the time a patron is in unmasked contact with other patrons and staff. Additionally, by capping capacity at 50% of fire code, the mayor's guidance ensures the ability to physically distance.

Q: Can I still take leave inside or outside Alaska during the Public Health Emergency?

A: Yes. Leave is still at the discretion of and approval of unit Commanders or equivalents. ROM requirements upon return from out of state still apply.

Q: Why didn't you just implement a full lockdown? Wouldn't this have been safer and simpler?

A: We could have locked down. However, we understand the toll that lockdowns take on servicemembers and families and we've got to balance preserving and enhancing resilience with our COVID-19 mitigation measures.

Q: Do the Public Health Emergency restrictions still apply if I am on leave in or outside of Alaska

A: Restrictions still apply if members take leave inside the state as there are no mitigation protocols for when they return to duty. Members that take leave outside the state must do all they can to protect themselves while traveling. Upon return from out of state individuals that live off base will not enter the base and will conduct their 14 days of Restriction of Movement (ROM) at their home and self-monitor their health. Members that live on base will go directly to their home and complete their 14 days of ROM at their home while self-monitoring their health. On base members will not enter store fronts or any other facilities during these 14 days. Personnel must still adhere to Alaska travel and testing requirements when returning from leave outside the state, however personnel who test negative are not exempt from the 14 day ROM requirements.

Q: If I am a military member and I have a second job can I still go to work.

A: Unit Commanders are the approval authority for secondary employment. Your Commander will need to review your situation and make the determination.

Q: Do the Public Health Emergency restriction apply to sports programs

A: Restrictions apply if the participants consist of more than 2 family groups. They also apply if participants cannot maintain 6 feet from other non-family group members.