



DEPARTMENT OF THE AIR FORCE
UNITED STATES SPACE FORCE
SPACE LAUNCH DELTA 45

12 October 2021

MEMORANDUM FOR ALL PATRICK SFB/CAPE CANAVERAL SFS

FROM: SLD 45/CC

SUBJECT: Public Health Directive #22

1. To prevent the spread or transmission of COVID-19, it is critical that we continue to **observe**, **quarantine**, **isolate**, and **reintegrate** any individual that presents a public health risk to our installations. The measures provided below are reasonable and necessary in order to address the public health risk posed by COVID-19 and align with Department of Defense (DoD) guidance. Due to a decrease in the reported COVID-19 case numbers in the base and local community, Patrick SFB and Cape Canaveral SFS are now in HPCON Bravo effective 12 October 2021. This document takes effect on 12 October 2021, and supersedes any previous Public Health Directives on this subject.

2. In order to protect the health of everyone on Patrick SFB/Cape Canaveral SFS, the following measures are provided and are applicable to military, civilians, dependents, retirees, veterans, contractors, and any persons on the installation for any reason (to include patrons of Patrick SFB lodging and FamCamp).

3. Responsible Individual Activity.

a. All personnel are encouraged to follow safety protocols issued by the Centers for Disease Control (CDC) and the State of Florida with regards to physical distancing, disciplined personal hygiene, and off-base gatherings. Personnel must adhere to all local and state regulations in the local area and when traveling.

b. Additional Guidance.

Implementation of HPCON BRAVO workplace occupancy levels. DOD has established HPCON-driven occupancy levels for personnel in the workplace. DAF has provided categorical exemptions to these limitations for: (a) Command and Control Facilities; (b) critical installation security activities; (c) medical treatment facilities; (d) deployment and passenger processing facilities; (e) maintenance facilities; (f) air traffic control facilities; (g) aircrew, missile, space, and range operations facilities; (h) formal military, civilian training and education programs facilities; (i) special compartmented information and special access program facilities; (j) child and youth programs facilities; and (k) on-installation schools. In our current posture of HPCON BRAVO, in-office personnel limit is capped at "less than 50%" for offices not included in the aforementioned DAF list of exempted facilities and activities. Commanders and Directors have discretion to set in-office personnel numbers at their levels to comply with this requirement, but all personnel must be able to comply with DoD and DAF guidance regarding use of masks and social distancing when applicable. Taking into consideration current challenges faced by many individuals (e.g., living with "at risk" family members, unavailability of childcare, etc.), non-mission essential personnel directed to return to work should discuss such limitations with their chain of command. Any non-categorically exempt offices may request an occupancy-limit waiver from me.

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- **“At Risk” Personnel.** “At Risk” non-mission essential personnel are strongly recommended to remain at home. “At Risk” is defined as persons aged 65 and over, and any employee with serious underlying medical conditions should be considered at high risk of contracting COVID-19. “Serious Underlying Medical Conditions” include Asthma and/or Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Disease (COPD), Immunocompromised state (e.g. HIV, cancer, organ transplants), Diabetes, Chronic Kidney Disease undergoing dialysis, Liver Disease, and Severe/Morbid Obesity (BMI over 40). (For more information, see the Centers for Disease Control website: <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/need-extra-precautions/people-with-medical-conditions.html>.) Civilian employees who are “high risk” and who request Weather and Safety Leave must provide medical documentation from a licensed medical practitioner confirming they are “high risk” according to the CDC guidelines. Supervisors may waive this requirement if the employees’ medical condition is known or was previously identified prior to March 2020 or if high risk according to age.
- **Maximize Telework.** Where possible, commanders and directors are encouraged to maximize telework throughout the next phase.
- **Mission Critical Personnel.** Unit Commanders will determine which personnel are mission critical based on operational support requirements and enabling workforce schedules. Unit commanders/director-equivalents may institute additional restrictions based on mission requirements, but are encouraged to discuss such additional restrictions with SLD 45/JA and 45 FSS/FSCA prior to implementation.
- **Leave & Military Pass.** In accordance with normal procedures, supervisors may approve all kinds of military and civilian leave.

4. Conduct While on the Installation.

- a. On 28 July 2021, the Deputy Secretary of Defense rescinded previous guidance regarding mask wear by fully vaccinated individuals. DOD policy now requires all Service members, Federal employees, on-site contractor employees, and visitors, regardless of vaccination status, to wear a mask in *indoor settings* on installations and other facilities owned leased, or controlled by the DoD in areas of substantial or high community Covid-19 transmission. Patrick SFB/Cape Canaveral SFS and the surrounding areas of Brevard County are currently areas of substantial or high community transmission; until further notice, all individuals on Patrick SFB and Cape Canaveral SFS, regardless of vaccination status, must wear a mask when indoors, unless one of the exceptions in paragraph 4.c applies.
- b. **Meetings, Public Gatherings and Dining.** DoD policy requires proper physical distancing, wear of cloth face coverings, and sanitization protocols for all gatherings for unvaccinated individuals. CDC guidance no longer requires fully vaccinated individuals to maintain six feet of social distance, unless otherwise required by law, regulation or policy. Maximum personnel allowed in facilities will vary based on ability to maintain six feet seating/standing distance when unvaccinated persons are present. At this time, we are not re-implementing personnel caps on mission/non-mission essential gatherings. Unit commanders and directors should weigh risk to mission, risk to force, and mitigation measures and alternatives (including telecon or virtual meeting options) when considering in-person meetings. Likewise, leaders should very carefully weigh risks associated with approving social gatherings, balancing the need to bring people together for mental health/morale/togetherness reasons, and other benefits to the installation

community, against risk of spread of disease.

c. Wear of Cloth Face Coverings.

- On 4 February 2021, the Secretary of Defense directed all individuals performing official duties on behalf of the Department of Defense from any location will wear masks in accordance with CDC guidelines. Cloth face coverings must be worn continuously while on military installations, to include Patrick SFB and Cape Canaveral SFB, except: (1) when in an individual's home; (2) when an individual is alone in an office with floor to ceiling walls with a closed door; (3) when eating and drinking for brief periods of time while maintaining distancing; (4) when the mask is required to be lowered briefly for identification or security purposes; and (5) when necessary to reasonably accommodate an individual with a disability.
- On 17 Feb 2021, the Secretary of the Air Force provided the following additional exceptions: (1) when necessary to reasonably accommodate a religious belief; (2) when underlying health conditions prohibiting the wear of a face covering exist and the individual is in possession of medical documentation from a health care provider outlining such a condition and the restrictions the condition places on wear of a face covering; (3) when outdoors and proper physical distancing can be maintained; (4) when actively participating in physical fitness activities either indoors or outdoors and either proper physical distancing is maintained or additional measures are implemented to mitigate the threat of transmission; (5) when an individual is alone in a vehicle or is sharing the vehicle only with members of their household; (6) when use substantively interferes with the proper wear and use of PPE necessary of the accomplishment of one's military duties; (7) when personnel are in primary aircrew positions during critical phase of flight or emergencies; or when using flight crew oxygen equipment; (8) when clear or unrestricted visualization of verbal communication are essential to safe and effective operations; and (9) as approved on a case-by-case exception by the installation commander when implementation will significantly impede mission accomplishment.
- **Civilian Employees.** For civilian employees (Appropriated Fund and Non-Appropriated Fund) conducting official business on or off-base (regardless of location, with the exception of the member's home), units must first provide a cloth face covering before mandating wear.
- When required, individuals must consistently wear a mask that covers the nose and mouth and that complies with all current CDC and Occupational Health and Safety Administration guidance. Novelty or non-protective masks, masks with ventilation valves, or face shields are not authorized as a substitute for masks. Masks must fit properly (i.e., fit snugly around the nose and chin with no large gaps around the sides of the face.) Face coverings should be functional, clean, and well-maintained. For uniformed military members, cloth face coverings should be conservative, professional, in keeping with dignity and respect, neutral in color/pattern, and adhere to the elements of military professional standards. Acceptable items include cotton masks, neck gaiters, balaclavas, bandanas, scarves, or other suitable coverings. Face coverings may be washed and re-worn. Lowering of the cloth face covering may be required to verify identification.
- **Physical Distancing Still Required.** Cloth face coverings are not a substitute for physical distancing and other measures. All individuals on military installations and all individuals performing official DoD duties from any location other than the individual's

home, who are not fully-vaccinated, will follow DoD and CDC guidance and practice physical distancing, specifically by staying at least six feet (about two arm lengths) from other people who are not from an individual's household, in both indoor and outdoor spaces. Social distancing should be practiced in combination with other everyday preventative actions to reduce the spread of COVID-19, including by wearing masks, avoiding touching your face with unwashed hands, and frequently washing your hands with soap and water for at least 20 seconds. In the workplace, commanders should ensure frequent sanitization of consoles, keyboards, headsets and other high-touch areas before operations.

5. All personnel should closely self-monitor for COVID symptoms and refrain from coming to work on-base if they feel symptomatic. Any individual experiencing symptoms consistent with COVID-19 including, but not limited to, fever of greater than 100.4 degrees Fahrenheit, dry cough, or shortness of breath or loss of smell and taste, must contact their Primary Care Provider. If you are a beneficiary of the 45 MDG call the appointment line at (321) 494-8241 during normal duty hours or the Nurse Advice Line at 1-800-874-2273 outside of normal duty hours. If you are a beneficiary with COVID-19 symptoms, you are strongly encouraged to be tested on base. Symptomatic personnel are also strongly encouraged to refrain from traveling outside their home. Any individual who tests positive for COVID-19, at any location, must promptly email the 45 MDG Public Health office at usaf.patrick.45sw-mdg.mbx.public-health@mail.mil to facilitate Public Health's effort to track the disease. Off-base resident personnel may be denied installation access until medically cleared by the PHEO.

a. **Exceptions to Reporting of Testing.** As more COVID-19 testing is done for screening purposes, reporting of testing and denial of installation access is not required when testing is done, e.g., secondary to a surgical procedure, as a requirement for organizational participation (i.e., to coach youth sports), to fulfill travel requirements, or for the individual's peace of mind (where the individual has no symptoms and had no significant exposure). All positive test results, however, must be reported to 45 MDG Public Health.

b. **Denial of Installation Access.** Denial of installation access for off-base residents is limited to cases when:

- the individual has tested positive for COVID-19 (if a military member, Sq/CC and SLD 45 CC/CV are notified; if a civilian employee, the supervisor is notified), or
- the individual is tested due to:
 - symptoms consistent with COVID-19,
 - a physician order due to suspicion of infection, or
 - close, prolonged contact with an infected individual.

6. Any individual who has been placed in **observation, quarantine, or isolation** is expected to remain exclusively at their residence or other appropriate domicile, when directed. The restricted individual should exercise disciplined personal hygiene, physical distancing, self-monitor, report worsening symptoms to their primary care provider, and call 9-1-1 for any medical emergencies. Commanders have the discretion to place additional restrictions on those who may have had contact with a restricted individual, but are not required to do so unless directed by the PHEO.

7. If an individual is restricted on-base or is empaneled to the 45 MDG, a competent medical authority from the 45 MDG will contact the individual to assess the public health risk and make a status determination. If the individual was diagnosed or tested off-base, the individual must email the 45 MDG

Public Health Office at usaf.patrick.45sw-mdg.mbx.public-health@mail.mil or, outside of duty hours, call the SLD 45 Command Post at (321) 494-7001. On-base medical restrictions can only be lifted by the 45 MDG PHEO. Individuals who do not reside on the installation may be denied access to the installation for the duration of their restricted status.

8. This policy will terminate when directed by the SLD 45/CC, in consultation with the PHEO. The contents of this memorandum and any related orders issued by the SLD 45/CC or PHEO are directive. Any person who refuses to obey or otherwise violates such orders during the declared public health emergency may be detained and turned over to military or civilian authorities. For military members, violations are punishable under the Uniform Code of Military Justice. For all personnel (military and civilian), violations are punishable under Titles 18 and 42 of the United States Code (U.S.C.), to include 18 U.S.C. § 1382 and 42 U.S.C. § 271. Additionally, any personnel who fail to adhere to this memorandum or subsequent orders may be subject to debarment (denied access to the installation).

9. The Secretary of Defense has labeled COVID-19 “the greatest proximate challenge to our Nation’s security.” The COVID-19 vaccinations are critical to our Nation’s defense and can help prevent individuals from getting the disease and keep them from getting seriously ill if they do contract the disease. The vaccination is available at 45 MDG and local pharmacies. I encourage everyone not yet vaccinated to research the risk and efficacy of the vaccinations and consider getting vaccinated to increase our force health protection posture. While the HPCON measures above are temporary, they are absolutely necessary to ensure the health and safety of all individuals on the installation. Thank you for doing your part to help us protect the personnel and essential missions of Patrick Space Force Base and Cape Canaveral Space Force Station. Your tremendous efforts and sacrifices during this difficult time have been exemplary. Chief Basnight and I are proud to serve alongside each and every one of you.



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