



DEPARTMENT OF THE AIR FORCE
374TH AIRLIFT WING



16 September 2021

MEMORANDUM FOR YOKOTA AIR BASE PERSONNEL

FROM: 374 AW/CC

SUBJECT: Renewed Public Health Emergency Protective Measures

1. **Public Health Emergency:**

a. Continued transmission of COVID-19 cases in Japan presents a risk to our population. Accordingly, pursuant to DoDI 6200.03, *Public Health Emergency Management (PHEM) Within the DoD*, dated 28 March 2019 and AFI 10-2519, *Public Health Emergencies and Incidents of Public Health Concern*, dated 10 December 2019, I have declared a Public Health Emergency under my authority as the installation commander.

b. The following measures are **mandatory** for all individuals present on or assigned to Yokota Air Base including, but not limited to, U.S. military members, U.S. civilian employees, dependents, DoD retirees, host nation (HN) employees, contractors, and any person accessing this installation. This order also includes personnel assigned to mission partner and tenant units.

c. These measures are effective **immediately** (unless otherwise noted) and will remain in effect until renewed and republished or terminated by me or my successor. I will review this policy at a minimum every 15 days to determine if these measures should remain in place or be amended.

d. For the purposes of this memorandum, **individuals are considered unvaccinated if they are not fully vaccinated**. Full vaccination is defined as 14 days or more after receipt of a second dose in a two-dose vaccine series or 14 days or more after receipt of a single-dose vaccine.

2. **Local Area Definition:**

a. To protect personnel and their families from the continued transmission of COVID-19, I have established a local area within Japan. The local area is currently defined as the country of Japan.

b. SOFA-status personnel should be aware there is a **Government of Japan (GoJ)-declared State of Emergency** in Tokyo, Okinawa, Saitama, Chiba, Kanagawa, Osaka, Ibaraki, Tochigi, Gunma, Shizuoka, Kyoto, Hyogo, Fukuoka, Hokkaido, Gifu, Aichi, Mie, Shiga, and Hiroshima prefectures **until 30 September 2021**. Additionally, the GoJ has instituted a **Quasi-State of Emergency (priority preventative measures)** in Ishikawa, Fukushima, Kumamoto, Miyagi, Okayama, Kagawa, Miyazaki, and Kagoshima prefectures **until 30 September 2021**. SOFA-status personnel may enter these areas in accordance with paragraph 3. All personnel are expected to comply with COVID-19 mitigation measures created by the GoJ. Many businesses in these prefectures may be closed; other essential services may be open but with shortened hours. Members who currently live in one of these named prefectures may continue to travel to and from their residence for purposes of going to work or for any other purpose currently approved in this policy.

c. Members are also authorized to visit other military installations within the local area, however, visiting installations that are currently in HPCON Charlie status requires prior approval from the first O-6 in the member's chain of command.

d. All DoD uniformed members must remain in the above-defined local area while on duty, leave, liberty, or pass unless on mission-essential travel or otherwise formally approved pursuant to the requirements in paragraphs 4 and 6. SOFA-status members of the civilian component and SOFA-status dependents are highly encouraged to remain within the defined local area and any departure from that local area will subject them to restriction of movement policies upon return.

3. **Local Area Limitations:**

a. **Effective 0000 JST 17 September 2021, unvaccinated, DoD uniformed personnel** are no longer restricted to Yokota Air Base. Other prohibitions contained within this memorandum still apply.

b. **SOFA-status personnel, regardless of vaccination status,** are prohibited from travelling to the Tokyo metropolitan area and mainland Okinawa. The Tokyo metropolitan area includes, but not limited to, Shibuya, Shinjuku, and Roppongi. A map defining the restricted areas within metropolitan Tokyo is located at <https://www.yokota.af.mil/COVID-19/> and is also attached to this memorandum. The only exceptions to this prohibition are the following:

- Individuals may travel to/from and lodge at the New Sanno Hotel (4 Chome-12-20 Minamiazabu, Minato City, Tokyo 106-0047);
- Individuals may transit through prohibited areas if they do not stop travel prior to reaching a destination in a non-prohibited area;
- Individuals may stop in prohibited areas for mission essential travel as defined in paragraph 4;
- Individuals may stop in prohibited areas for non-mission essential travel upon approval from the individual's squadron commander or squadron commander equivalent.

c. **SOFA-status personnel, regardless of vaccination status, are prohibited from participating in non-essential services and activities where COVID-19 prevention measures cannot be maintained within any prefecture in Japan.** Specifically, personnel may not enter any off-installation bar, nightclub, karaoke club, social club, or other facility with a potential for crowds, close contact, or closed spaces.

d. **Unvaccinated individuals will not be sponsored on base** except if conducting official business or with authorization from the sponsor's squadron commander or equivalent.

e. **All personnel are reminded to use caution and risk mitigation efforts when engaging in non-essential activities both on and off the installation.** This includes, but is not limited to, avoiding crowded areas such as indoor restaurants, busses/trains, stores, etc. While at other U.S. installations within Japan, Yokota personnel are expected to comply with that installation's COVID policies.

4. Mission-Essential Travel:

a. Mission-essential travel outside the local area is authorized during the period of this order. Mission-essential travel includes, but is not limited to, medical appointments, official duty at another military installation, and permissive TDY for house-hunting. If there are questions regarding what qualifies as mission essential travel, please consult your chain of command.

b. Government-funded TDY travel for 374th Airlift Wing personnel may be approved by the first O-6 in the traveler's chain of command. All TDY travel requires approval unless the purpose for travel is one of the 12 exemptions listed on the Secretary of Defense memorandum, "Update to Conditions-based Approach to Coronavirus Disease 2019 Personnel Movement and Travel Restrictions" (15 March 2021).

5. Physical Fitness Activities:

a. Members are encouraged to engage in physical fitness activities to maintain and improve both their physical and mental health. A risk, however, still remains for indoor physical fitness activities involving unvaccinated personnel. Accordingly, **unvaccinated individuals are prohibited from exercising or otherwise engaging in physical fitness activities inside the Samurai Fitness Center & Annex**. The only exception to this prohibition is for official physical fitness assessments (PT tests), to include diagnostic tests, and participation in mandated fitness improvement programs.

b. Group, outdoor fitness activities may be conducted on or off-base. Masks are not required while participating in such activities, however, they are recommended during non-active play when individuals are unable to socially distance or when sharing equipment. All equipment should be thoroughly cleaned after use in group fitness activities.

c. Department of Defense Education Activity (DoDEA) schools are permitted to engage in travel sports activities with other DoDEA participating schools if: (1) the competitive event or practice is held on Yokota Air Base or another DoD installation, (2) the competing DoDEA school has agreed to participate in the event and the host DoD installation has agreed for it to take place there, and (3) all participants comply with the approved DoDEA COVID mitigation plan for that sporting activity.

6. Leave/Pass:

a. Leave/pass to a personal residence or in the local area may be approved by a first line supervisor. Leave/pass for military or civilian employees outside of Japan may be approved by their squadron commander or equivalent. Approval authorities are required to conduct a travel risk assessment with the member and verify the HPCON status of a leave/pass location before approving requests. In conducting risk assessments, approval authorities will consider the individual's increased risk, if any, of severe illness from COVID-19; the status of COVID-19 community spread at the travel destination; the traveler(s) COVID-19 vaccination status; and the traveler(s) familiarity with self-monitoring and treating COVID-19 symptoms. If approval authorities have questions regarding risk assessments, they should speak with a public health professional.

b. Space Available flights are only permitted with an exception to policy request signed by the first O-6 or civilian equivalent in the traveler's chain of command, as delegated by the Secretary of the Air Force.

7. Mask Wear Guidance:

a. While off the installation in Japan, all SOFA-status personnel are required to wear masks in public, i.e., outside of a private dwelling. This includes, but is not limited to, while using any form of public transportation or military/military-contracted transportation. Japanese citizens commonly wear masks in public settings and our personnel should do so off-installation to prevent the spread of infection and to promote a responsible image to the host nation civilian population.

b. All personnel are required to wear masks when inside any medical or dental facility on the installation regardless of vaccination status. Masks are also required when entering any on installation school, child care center, or daycare facility.

c. **All personnel are required to wear masks in high traffic, on installation common use areas where co-mingling with non-familiar individuals** (individuals other than family members, co-workers, and friends) is likely. This includes, but is not limited to, the post office, Yokota Community Center (BX and Commissary), Shopette/Express, and Chapel. This mask mandate does not apply to fully-vaccinated individuals utilizing on base indoor fitness facilities.

d. All individuals must wear masks while interacting with host nation individuals on the installation, including civilian employees and Japan Self-Defense Force personnel. Interaction is defined as any deliberate engagement, including, but not limited to, working in an office environment with no divider. Merely passing by a host nation individual, even within six feet, does not require the wearing of a mask if fully vaccinated.

e. Unvaccinated Individuals: Unvaccinated individuals will continuously wear masks while on Yokota Air Base or Tama Hills Recreation Area. This mask wear requirement does not include while inside a personal residence or when alone in an office with floor-to-ceiling walls and a closed door. Unvaccinated individuals in outdoor shared spaces will wear a mask unless one of the following applies:

- For brief periods of time when eating or drinking on the installation in accordance with Centers for Disease Control and Prevention guidelines and instructions from commanders and supervisors;
- When the mask is required to be lowered briefly for identification or security purposes; or
- When necessary to reasonably accommodate an unvaccinated individual with a disability.

f. Fully-Vaccinated Individuals: Fully-vaccinated individuals are not required to wear masks on Yokota Air Base or Tama Hills Recreation Area except as otherwise required by this memorandum. Fully-vaccinated individuals electing to not wear a mask where permissible on Yokota Air Base or Tama Hills Recreation Area, must carry proof of their vaccination status. Individuals may be denied entry into base facilities if not wearing a mask and without proof of vaccination status. It is highly recommended fully-vaccinated individuals make a digital copy of their COVID-19 Vaccination Record Card and carry a face mask with them at all times. Any individual declining to wear a mask in compliance with this policy and not under one of the aforementioned exceptions may be temporarily denied access to the installation, debarred, or subject to other appropriate action.

g. Children under two years of age are generally not required to wear a face mask on or off-base. However, in accordance with federal guidance for childcare facilities, all children aged two years and older, who are participating in 374 FSS-sponsored childcare (CDC, etc.), are required to wear masks at all times while indoors except when actively eating or drinking.

8. **Isolation and Quarantine Policies:** The wing's policies regarding isolation and quarantine requirements are currently under review. Updated guidance is forthcoming.

9. Thank you for your commitment to ensuring the safety and security of everyone. I recognize these measures place burden on our families, however, they are absolutely essential to protecting our entire community. It requires a total commitment from everyone in order to reduce risk to all personnel who live and work on the installation.

10. If there are any questions on these measures, please consult your chain of command or the installation Public Affairs office at 374aw.pav3@us.af.mil.

JULIE M. GAULIN, Colonel
Vice Commander