



DEPARTMENT OF THE AIR FORCE
374TH AIRLIFT WING



29 April 2022

MEMORANDUM FOR YOKOTA AIR BASE PERSONNEL

FROM: 374 AW/CC

SUBJECT: Renewed Public Health Emergency and Protective Measures

1. **Public Health Emergency and Health Protection Condition:**

a. Pursuant to Commander, United States Forces Japan's (COMUSFJ) 27 April 2022 Health Protection Condition (HPCON) baseline directive, the HPCON level at Yokota Air Base and Tama Hills Recreation Area is **HPCON BRAVO**.

b. The transmission of COVID-19 still presents a risk to the Yokota Air Base 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 (PHE) under my authority as the installation commander. This PHE declaration will remain in effect until **25 July 2022** unless renewed and republished or terminated by me or my successor.

c. 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. Any person who refuses to obey or otherwise violates an order during this declared public health emergency may be detained. Those not subject to military law may be detained until civil authorities can respond. Any military member who refuses to obey or otherwise violates an order during this declared PHE may be subject to punishment under the Uniform Code of Military Justice (UCMJ). Those not subject to military law who refuse to obey or otherwise violate an order during this PHE may be subject to administrative action including but not limited to early return of dependents, denial of access, or debarment from the installation.

d. The following measures are effective **immediately** 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.

2. **Restriction of Movement:** When engaging in off-installation activities within Japan, SOFA-status personnel will follow local community and prefecture guidance. While on military installations within Japan, SOFA-status personnel will follow installation guidance.

3. **Mission-Essential Travel:** Government-funded TDY travel for 374th Airlift Wing fully-vaccinated 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). Additionally, commanders should give serious consideration to an individual's COVID-19 vaccine booster status prior to authorizing off-installation mission essential travel.

4. **Leave/Pass:** 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.

5. **Mask Wear:**

a. Mask wear **is no longer required indoors or outdoors** while **on the installation** **EXCEPT:**

(1) When inside a medical or dental facility. Such medical and dental facilities will be designated by 374 MDG/CC, and

(2) On all DoD public transportation assets, as designated by 374 MSG/CC. Individuals riding buses, vans, or cars that remain on USFJ installations or travel between USFJ installations (e.g., DoDEA school buses, on-base bus routes) are not required to wear a mask when the COVID-19 community level is low or medium.

Individuals with COVID-19 symptoms, a positive COVID-19 test, or exposure to a COVID-19 positive individual should wear masks until medically cleared.

b. **While off-installation within Japan, SOFA-status personnel, regardless of vaccination status, are required to wear masks in public**, i.e., outside of a private dwelling. Japanese citizens often 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.

6. **Isolation and Quarantine Policies:** In most circumstances, individuals who have tested positive for COVID-19 or who are a close contact of someone who has tested positive for COVID-19, will be able to isolate or quarantine at home after consultation with a COVID-19 medical provider. See the current *Yokota Air Base Restriction of Movement (ROM) Policy* for additional guidance on isolation procedures.

7. 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.

8. 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.

ANDREW J. CAMPBELL, Colonel, USAF
Commander