



DEPARTMENT OF THE AIR FORCE
374TH AIRLIFT WING



16 June 2021

MEMORANDUM FOR ALL PERSONNEL ASSIGNED TO OR STATIONED ON YOKOTA AIR BASE, JAPAN

FROM: 374 AW/CC

SUBJECT: Renewed Public Health Emergency Protective Measures

1. Continued transmission of COVID-19 cases in Japan present a risk to our population. Accordingly, pursuant to DoD Instruction (DoDI) 6200.03, "Public Health Emergency Management (PHEM) Within the DoD," dated 28 March 2019, and Air Force Instruction 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. The following measures are **mandatory** for all personnel present on or assigned to Yokota Air Base including but not limited to U.S. military members, U.S. civilian employees, all dependents, DoD retirees, Host-Nation (HN) employees, contractors, and any other persons accessing this installation. This order also includes those personnel assigned to mission partners/tenant units. These measures will go into effect **immediately** and remain in effect until **Saturday 24 July 2021** unless renewed and republished or sooner terminated by me or my successor. I will review this policy at least every 15 days to determine if these measures need to stay in place or be changed in any manner.

2. **Local Area Definition:**

a. To protect our personnel and 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 however SOFA status personnel should be aware there are several restrictions currently in place in the prefectures of **Tokyo, Aichi, Fukuoka, Osaka, Kyoto, Hyogo, Hokkaido, Okayama, Hiroshima, and Okinawa due to a Government of Japan State of Emergency declared until 20 June 2021**. SOFA status personnel may still enter these areas but are expected to comply with COVID mitigation measures created by the Government of Japan in these prefectures. Many businesses in these prefectures may be closed; other essential services may still 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. 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.

b. All DoD uniformed members must remain in the above defined local area while on duty, on leave, on liberty, or on pass unless **on mission-essential travel or in a formally approved leave status** pursuant to the requirements in paragraphs 4 and 7. SOFA status members of the civilian component and SOFA 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:** Prohibited non-essential services and activities within any prefecture in Japan include bars, night clubs, karaoke clubs, social clubs, or any facility with a potential for crowds, close contact, or closed spaces where COVID prevention measures cannot be maintained. While at another U.S. installation in Japan, Yokota members are expected to comply with that installation's COVID policies. While engaging in non-essential services and activities **on and off-base** members must wear masks **unless an exception below applies**.

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 on what qualifies as mission essential travel, please consult your chain of command.

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

5. **Social Gatherings:**

a. All indoor social gatherings are currently limited to 10 persons or 3 families in attendance. All outdoor social gatherings are currently limited to 25 persons. Exceptions to these rules may be approved by Squadron Commanders (or equivalent for mission partners/joint service personnel). Social gatherings are defined as groups of people who are together outside of the work area for non-mission essential purposes. When dining in restaurants or conducting other social activities not prohibited in paragraph 3, personnel should ensure they are maintaining social distancing and wearing cloth masks even when in groups of less than the maximum number of people listed above unless they are only with immediate family members. Vaccinated personnel conducting social gatherings on base should also refer to paragraph 8 on mask wear guidance.

b. An exception to this limited social gathering rule is allowed for attendance at off-installation religious services so long as attendance can be conducted in a safe manner and masks are worn. Personnel who find themselves in an area with a potential for crowds, close contact, or closed spaces where COVID prevention measures cannot be maintained, should immediately remove themselves from that location. If there are questions on social gatherings, please consult your chain of command.

6. **Physical Fitness Activities:**

a. Members are encouraged to engage in physical fitness activities where social distancing and cleaning of equipment can be maintained. However, there still remains a risk in group physical fitness activities **involving unvaccinated personnel** where masks are not worn, social

distancing cannot be maintained, or equipment is shared between multiple individuals. Accordingly, all unvaccinated personnel will wear a face mask at all times while in base fitness facilities including while engaging in physical exercise. The only exception to wearing a mask in base fitness facilities **for unvaccinated personnel** will be for members actively engaging in cardiovascular exercise on a cardio machine, when momentarily removed to hydrate, or while members are in the sauna/steam room or showers. Unvaccinated members conducting outdoor fitness activities on or off-base may briefly remove masks provided they maintain 6 feet of distance from non-family members. Vaccinated personnel conducting fitness activities on base should also refer to paragraph 8 on mask wear guidance.

b. Moreover, the following group fitness activities without participation limits are permitted where masks are worn or social distancing is maintained: volleyball, baseball, softball, tennis, and gymnastics. All equipment should be thoroughly cleaned after use. Modified practice of group fitness activities not mentioned above (i.e. individual skill drills, conditioning, forms practice, shooting practice, etc.) may take place where strict social distancing is maintained or masks are worn and when there is no sharing of equipment or thorough cleaning of equipment is maintained and in accordance with paragraph 8.c. below.

c. All group fitness activities not mentioned above may be conducted on or off-base so long as participants comply with the following directives. Indoor group fitness activities must be limited to 10 participants unless it is a FSS approved activity such as intramural sports, adult fitness classes, or youth sports/fitness activity. Outdoor group fitness activities must be limited to 25 participants unless it is a FSS approved activity such as intramural sports, adult fitness classes, or youth sports/fitness activity. All participants in group fitness activities must wear a mask covering their nose and mouth while involved in the activity and within six feet of other participants or while sharing sports equipment. Vaccinated personnel conducting group fitness activities on base should also refer to paragraph 8 on mask wear guidance. No travel sports are currently permitted, with the exception listed in paragraph 8.d. below, meaning that teams cannot travel off-base for competitive events or practice and Yokota Air Base groups cannot invite teams from off-base onto the installation. All equipment should be thoroughly cleaned after use in a permitted activity. These directives will be continually evaluated and adjusted as required.

d. Department of Defense Education Activity (DoDEA) schools are permitted to engage in travel sports activities with other DoDEA participating schools so long as: (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; (3) all participants comply with the approved DoDEA COVID mitigation plan for that sporting activity; and (4) no overnight travel is required for the competitive event or practice.

e. Squadron Commanders (or equivalent for mission partners/joint service personnel) may approve unit indoor or outdoor Physical Training events beyond the 10 and 25 participant limit, respectively. All unvaccinated participants in unit Physical Training events must wear a mask covering their nose and mouth when within a base fitness facility, within six feet of other participants, or while sharing sports equipment. Vaccinated personnel conducting group fitness activities on base should also refer to paragraph 8 on mask wear guidance. All equipment used during unit Physical Training events must be sanitized after use.

7. **Leave:** Leave to a personal residence or in the local area may be approved by a first line supervisor. Non-mission essential travel within the prefectures of **Aichi, Fukuoka, Osaka, Kyoto, Hyogo, Hokkaido, Okayama, Hiroshima, or Okinawa is currently limited to approval by a squadron commander or equivalent after an appropriate risk assessment until 20 June 2021.** Leave for military or civilian employees outside of Japan may be approved by their squadron commander or equivalent. Approval authorities are required to conduct a risk assessment of the travel with the member and verify the HPCON status of a leave location before approving a leave request. In conducting risk assessments approval authorities will consider whether the individual is at increased risk of severe illness of COVID-19, the status of community spread of COVID-19 at the travel destination, if the traveler(s) have completed a COVID-19 immunization series plus 14 days, if the traveler(s) has exhibited any signs or symptoms of COVID-19 within the previous 14 days, and if the traveler(s) is/are familiar with how to self-monitor and what actions to take if they develop symptoms of COVID-19. If approval authorities have any questions on risk assessments they should speak to a public health professional. Space Available flights are currently only approved with an Exception to Policy request signed by the first O-6 or civilian equivalent in the chain of command as delegated by the Secretary of the Air Force.

8. **Mask wear:**

a. **Unvaccinated individuals will continuously wear masks on Yokota Air Base, Tama Hills Recreation Area, or off base in Japan. Being “unvaccinated” is defined as not being 14 days after either the second dose of a two dose vaccine series or 14 days after a single dose vaccine.** This mask wear requirement does not include inside a member’s personal residence or while in private lodging in the defined local area. **However, unvaccinated members in outdoor shared spaces will wear a mask unless one of the exceptions to mask wear mentioned below apply:**

- (1) **When an unvaccinated individual is alone in an office with floor-to-ceiling walls with a closed door;**
- (2) **For brief periods of time when eating and drinking on or off the installation and while maintaining distance in accordance with CDC guidelines and instructions from commanders and supervisors;**
- (3) **When the mask is required to be lowered briefly for identification or security purposes;**
- (4) **When an unvaccinated member is conducting outdoor fitness activities on or off-base they may briefly remove a mask provided they maintain 6 feet of distance from non-family members; and**
- (5) **When necessary to reasonably accommodate an unvaccinated individual with a disability.**

b. **Fully-vaccinated individuals will apply the following rules when it comes to mask wear. Being “fully-vaccinated” is defined as being 14 days after either the second dose of a two dose vaccine series or 14 days after a single dose vaccine. All fully-vaccinated individuals on Yokota**

Air Base or Tama Hills Recreation Area are no longer required to wear masks indoors or outdoors on the installation with the following exceptions:

(1) All personnel are still required to wear a mask when inside any medical or dental facility on the installation regardless of vaccination status. Masks are also required when entering any school, child care center, or daycare facility on the installation.

(2) All personnel are still required to wear masks while off the installation in Japan and in public (i.e. not inside a private dwelling). Japanese citizens commonly wear masks in public settings and our personnel should also do so off-installation at this time of heightened COVID response to prevent the spread of infection and to promote a responsible image to the host nation civilian population. **Fully-vaccinated personnel may remove their mask while off the installation during brief periods of time when eating and drinking, or when engaging in cardiovascular exercise.**

(3) Fully-vaccinated individuals are still required to wear a mask when using any form of public transportation such as planes, buses, trains, or subways either on or off the installation. This includes those passengers using military air or contracted flights that depart or arrive at Yokota Air Base.

(4) Fully-vaccinated individuals must wear a mask while interacting with any host nation personnel on the installation including civilian employees and Japanese Self-Defense Force personnel. Interaction is defined as a deliberate engagement. Examples include, but are not limited to, approaching a cashier at a facility on base such as the commissary, BX, or a dining establishment, working in an office environment with no divider, or when six-foot social distancing cannot be maintained.

(5) Fully-vaccinated individuals wishing to exercise their option not to wear masks on Yokota Air Base or Tama Hills Recreation Center must carry proof of their vaccination status on them when not wearing a mask. Failure to have proof of vaccination on your person will require those personnel to continue wearing masks on the installation. Members may also be denied entry into base facilities if they are not wearing a mask and fail to have proof of vaccination status on their person. It is highly recommended that individuals make a digital copy of their COVID-19 Vaccination Record Card in case it is lost or misplaced. Fully-vaccinated individuals should also continue to carry a face mask with them at all times as there are several scenarios when masks will still be required on the installation as explained above.

c. Any member declining to wear a mask in compliance with this policy and not under one of the exceptions mentioned above may be temporarily denied access to the installation, debarred, or subject to other appropriate action.

d. Children 36 months old and younger are generally not required to wear a face mask on or off-base. Children in Child Development Center programs are also not required to wear a face mask while in the CDC. Multiple individuals riding in the same vehicle are required to wear face masks; however, this does not apply to riding in a vehicle with only immediate family members.

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.

ANDREW J. CAMPBELL, Colonel, USAF
Commander