



DEPARTMENT OF THE AIR FORCE
374TH AIRLIFT WING



9 September 2020

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 **8 December 2020** unless renewed and republished or sooner terminated by me or my successor. I will review this policy every 15 days to determine if these measures need to stay in place or be changed in any manner.

2. **Local Area Definition:** To protect our personnel and families from the continued transmission of COVID-19 cases, I have established a local area within Japan. **The local area is defined as the country of Japan excluding the Tokyo metropolitan area and the island of Okinawa which are prohibited. Areas in downtown Tokyo (for example Shibuya, Shinjuku, and Roppongi) are NOT considered part of the local area. Maps that define the local area can be found at <https://www.yokota.af.mil/COVID-19/> and attached to this policy.** Members are authorized travel within the local area for any activities not listed as prohibited in paragraphs 3, 7, and 8. 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. Members who currently live outside of the local area defined above may travel in the immediate vicinity of their residence for essential services such as dining facilities, grocery stores, shopping, schooling, and medical facilities. All DoD uniformed members must remain in the above defined local area whether on duty, on leave, on liberty, or on pass unless traveling outside the local area pursuant to the requirements in paragraphs 4, 5, and 9. 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 **may** subject them to a 14-day Restriction of Movement upon return. For anyone with an extraordinary situation requiring travel beyond definitions in this policy and not covered in paragraphs 4, 5, and 9, requests can be made for travel approval from the first General Officer/SES in your chain of command or myself for 374 AW personnel and those units without a local General Officer/SES.

3. **Local Area Limitations:** Prohibited non-essential services include bars, night clubs, karaoke clubs, social clubs, amusement/theme parks, off-installation gyms and fitness centers, or any facility with a potential for crowds, close contact, or closed spaces where COVID prevention measures cannot be maintained. Off-base employment should be conducted in a safe manner using the same social distancing procedures used on base. For off-base schools and daycare facilities, parents should be aware of school policies and make a personal decision based on risk involved with the facility used.

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, appointments with Government of Japan officials, U.S. embassy visits, and off-base house hunting. If there are questions on what qualifies as mission essential travel, please consult your chain of command. Proceed directly to the mission essential appointment from your residence or Yokota Air Base and return directly to your residence or Yokota Air Base.

b. Government funded TDY travel within Japan for 374th Airlift Wing personnel will be approved by me per 5 AF/CC policy. TDY travel outside of Japan will continue to require an Exception to Policy approved by the first General Officer in the member's chain of command unless the purpose for travel is one of the 11 exemptions listed on the Secretary of Defense's 22 May 20 memorandum. Per USFJ policy, mission-essential travel to a base or installation in HPCON Charlie status requires approval by the first O-6 in the member's chain of command.

5. **Public Transportation:**

a. **Public transportation may be used within Japan under the following conditions. Air travel conducted entirely within the country of Japan is permitted. There is no restriction on accessing airports within Japan. Shinkansen (Japanese bullet train) travel throughout Japan is permitted. Travel by taxi is still allowed. While on any form of public transportation members must wear a face mask at all times with the exception of eating a meal on an airplane or Shinkansen.**

b. **Use of local trains and buses is allowed under the following conditions. Members may use local trains and buses to travel for employment or schooling/daycare at any time. For all other travel reasons, members may use local trains and buses during non-peak hours. Specifically, local train and bus use is allowed:**

- (1) Monday through Saturday from 9 am to 4 pm JST;
- (2) Monday through Saturday from 7 pm to 5 am JST; and
- (3) Sunday from 5 am to midnight JST.

c. **While still prohibited from visiting the Tokyo metropolitan area, members may use a local train or bus for the limited purpose of going to an airport or Shinkansen station in that area to conduct air travel or Shinkansen travel as described in paragraph a. above. While on any local train or bus members must wear a face mask at all times.**

6. **Base Visitation Policy:**

a. All personnel possessing a DoD ID card or other appropriate access card to Yokota Air Base can continue to access the installation. Contractors must be on an Entry Access List or be escorted by an authorized sponsor solely to fulfill their contractual obligations. Contractors are only authorized to visit their designated place of performance.

b. The ability to sign in personal visitors is still suspended. Official visitors escorted by U.S. or Japanese military personnel and/or U.S. civilian employees are exempt. Exceptions to this policy for personal visitors will be routed to the first General Officer/SES in the chain of command for tenant organizations that have a General Officer/SES on base. For all other units, I will be the approval authority. An exception to policy form was previously distributed.

7. **Public Gatherings:** All personnel will limit gatherings to 20 or less people in attendance. Squadron Commanders (or equivalent for mission partners/joint service personnel) may approve social gatherings up to 50 people or less. **Group Commanders (or equivalent for mission partners/joint service personnel) may approve social gatherings greater than 50 people.** An exception to the public gathering requirements is allowed for attendance at off-installation religious services so long as attendance can be conducted in a safe manner. Those wishing to attend such services off-installation must exercise caution such as physically distancing requirements and wearing masks except for short duration to take part in religious rituals/rights/observances that require consumption. If members find that services are not being conducted in a safe manner, it is their personal responsibility to remove themselves from such an environment. At all times members will implement social distancing (6 feet or 2 meters) or cloth mask wear even when in groups of less than 20 people unless they are only with immediate family members. Personnel who live outside the defined local area may walk a pet near their residence and engage in outdoor exercise near their residence so long as social distancing can be maintained. 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 public gatherings, please consult your chain of command.

8. **Physical Fitness Activities:** 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 where masks are not worn, social distancing cannot be maintained, or equipment is shared between multiple individuals. Accordingly, the following group fitness activities 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 in a permitted activity. Other group activities that involve close contact between participants with a high probability of transmitting respiratory particles are still prohibited to include, but not limited to, soccer, basketball, racquetball, football, wrestling, hockey, rugby, ultimate Frisbee, and contact martial arts. Modified practice of these prohibited activities (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.

9. **Leave:** Leave to a personal residence or in the local area may be approved by a first line supervisor. Leave for military or civilian employees outside of **Japan** may be approved by their squadron commander, or equivalent. **Any member wanting to take leave in the Tokyo metropolitan area or on the island of Okinawa will be required to submit an Exception to Policy request to my office.** Any request to take leave at a base or installation in HPCON Charlie status requires approval by the first O-6 in the member's chain of command. 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. Exception to Policy requests approved by the first General Officer in the member's chain of command are still currently required to fly via Space Available status on all flights per SecAF policy.

10. **Mask wear:**

a. Consistent with Secretary of Defense guidance, all individuals on Yokota Air Base or Tama Hills Recreation Area will wear cloth face coverings when they cannot maintain social distance. This does not include inside a member's personal residence or while in private lodging in the defined local area. Children 36 months old and younger are not required to wear a face mask. Children in Child Development Center programs are also not required to wear face masks. Multiple individuals riding in the same vehicle are required to wear face masks; however, this does not apply to immediate family members.

b. Additionally, all personnel who wish to access Yokota Air Base or Tama Hills Recreation Center shall wear masks when in public off-installation in the defined local area. 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. Additionally, wearing masks off-installation is a preventive and risk mitigation measure that can allow the increase of off-installation activities in a safe manner. Members may remove masks while conducting outdoor exercise activities. Members may temporarily remove their masks while actively consuming food at a restaurant provided they wear a mask into the restaurant and put the mask back on when they are finished with their meal. Any member declining to wear a mask in public during the period of this order and not under one of the exceptions mentioned above may be temporarily denied access to the installation or debarred.

11. **Contact Tracing:** Daily contact tracing logs are required for all military members, civilian component, SOFA-status dependents, and local national employees. Logs will only be reviewed by medical professionals. Log entries are required if the contact meets the following conditions:

- a. Being within approximately 6 feet (2 meters) of an individual for longer than **15** minutes with or without a mask on; (Off-base - record the location and duration of your visit)
- b. Anyone with whom you had physical contact while caring for, living with, or visiting (with the exception of your immediate family living in your home);
- c. Anyone with whom you shared a health care waiting room (please denote time, name of clinic, and location of waiting room; no need to write down all patients names); and
- d. Anyone having direct contact with an individual's secretions (e.g. being coughed or sneezing on).

12. 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.

13. 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

Attachment:
Yokota AB – Local Area Limits maps 9 September 2020