



SECRETARY OF THE AIR FORCE  
WASHINGTON

MEMORANDUM FOR ALL MAJCOM-FLDCOM-FOA-DRU/CC  
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19 MAY 2021

SUBJECT: Department of the Air Force (DAF) Guidance for Commanders' Risk-Based Responses and Implementation of the Health Protection Condition Framework during the Coronavirus Disease 2019 Pandemic

- References:
- (a) Executive Order 13991, "Protecting the Federal Workforce and Requiring Mask-Wearing," January 20, 2021
  - (b) Office of Management and Budget Memorandum, "COVID-19 Safe Federal Workplace: Agency Model Safety Principles," January 24, 2021
  - (c) DoD Instruction 6200.03, "Public Health Emergency Management (PHEM) Within the DoD," March 28, 2019
  - (d) Secretary of Defense Memorandum, "Guidance for Commander's Risk-Based Responses and Implementation of the Health Protection Condition Framework during the Coronavirus Disease 2019 Pandemic", April 29, 2021

This memorandum is issued pursuant to References (a), (b), and (c), relating to public health measures, and (d), relating to the implementation of the Department of Defense Health Protection Condition Framework.

The Department of the Air Force (DAF) is committed to taking every precaution to ensure the health and well-being of our military members, civilian employees, and their families in response to the Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19) pandemic. The DAF supports, and will continue to implement, all measures necessary to mitigate risks of the spread of the disease.

Pursuant to my authority as outlined in reference (d), I delegate authority to determine HPCON level to military installation commanders. Further, I delegate authority to grant exemptions for workplace occupancy limits to installation commanders in a grade no-lower than O-6. Tenant mission owners will coordinate with installation commanders to request work place occupancy exemptions.

We expect commanders to balance the risk to mission and risk to force and continue to execute their missions while supporting their co-located mission partners in the execution of assigned missions. Our charge is to defend the nation, both with the execution of our duties and through our collective public health measures. We will conduct the critical national security business of the DAF in spite of COVID-19. Commanders will work with medical authorities to modify building occupancy limitations as necessary to sustain their mission while protecting the force and its families.

In accordance with references (a), (b), (c), and (d) and except as provided herein, effective immediately commanders will implement and adhere to the established framework. Pursuant to my authority as outlined in reference (d), DAF-wide categorical exemptions to HPCON-driven occupancy limitations are as follows:

- (1) Command and Control facilities (e.g. Base Defense Operations Centers, Maintenance Operations Centers, wing operations centers, Command Posts, etc.)
- (2) Critical installation security activities (e.g. guard mount facilities, armory, etc.)
- (3) Medical Treatment Facilities
- (4) Deployment and Passenger Processing Facilities
- (5) Maintenance facilities (e.g. depots, flightlines, logistics, supply facilities, etc.)
- (6) Air Traffic Control facilities (e.g. Air Traffic Control Towers, Terminal Radar Control Facilities, etc.)
- (7) Aircrew, missile, space and range operations facilities (e.g. planning, briefing, life support, alert facilities, etc.)
- (8) Formal military and civilian training (e.g. BMT, formal flying training, tech training, etc.) and education (e.g. ACSC, USAFA, etc.) programs and facilities
- (9) Special Compartmented Information Facilities and/or Special Access Program Facilities
- (10) Child and Youth Programs and facilities (e.g. Child Development Centers, Youth Centers, etc.)
- (11) On-installation schools (PK-12)

We expect the commanders responsible for the facilities captured under these categorical exemptions to ensure adherence to all other public health protection measures unless separately waived. These categorical exemptions are not intended to signify a return to pre-pandemic occupancy but rather provide commanders the necessary flexibility to weigh risk to mission and risk to force, implement appropriate mitigation measures, and execute assigned missions.

We further expect all individuals possessing delegated authorities to, at a minimum, review all references listed in this delegation and remain consistent with the intent of the documents as they evaluate further exemptions. When making an exemption decision, all individuals possessing authority must weigh the operational, readiness and/or safety necessity of conducting a mission or task against the risk of allowing the spread of COVID-19 within the facility in question.

Installation commanders must coordinate their actions with mission and installation partners. Commanders at a DAF-led joint base should refer to their Joint Basing Memorandum of Agreement for details on installation support function responsibilities and ensure proper coordination with their supported component. Commanders at non-joint bases and tenant mission owners will coordinate exemptions with mission partners and installation commanders as appropriate. If commanders cannot resolve the conflict, refer the issue to the next level of command.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'John P. Roth', is positioned above the printed name.

John P. Roth  
Acting Secretary of the Air Force

