



DEFENSE HEALTH AGENCY
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July 1, 2020

MEMORANDUM FOR ALL DIRECTORS, DEFENSE HEALTH AGENCY MILITARY
MEDICAL TREATMENT FACILITIES
ALL DIRECTORS, DEFENSE HEALTH AGENCY, MILITARY
DENTAL TREATMENT FACILITIES

SUBJECT: Supplemental Guidance 10 for Military Medical Treatment Facilities and Military
Dental Treatment Facilities Directors in regards to Coronavirus Disease 2019

According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), overall, indicators used to monitor Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19) activity remain lower than peaks seen in March and April; however, levels of influenza-like illness and COVID-19-like-illness are increasing in several regions. More than half of the states in the U.S. are reporting increasing case rates of COVID-19. United States Northern Command (USNORTHCOM) is executing Phase V (transition, recover, and posture) operations.

Important Highlights of the Department of Defense Response

- June 25, 2020: Department of Defense (DoD) Chief Management Officer issues memo, "Pentagon Reservation Transition to Phase 2/HPCON Bravo," approving the subject transition, effective 0500, Monday, June 29, 2020.
 - Details regarding the Phase 2 transition are summarized in a DoD Release, "Returning to Normal Operations on the Pentagon Reservation: Phase Two:" <https://www.defense.gov/Newsroom/Releases/Release/Article/2233028/returning-to-normal-operations-on-the-pentagon-reservation-phase-two/>
- June 19, 2020: Forty-six (46) U.S. locations, as well as eight host nations meet the conditions to lift DoD travel restrictions. A complete list of "green locations" can be found at: <https://www.defense.gov/Newsroom/Releases/Release/Article/2225922/travel-restrictions-green-locations-june-19-2020/>

Prepare and Respond: The Defense Health Agency (DHA) has developed the following updates to interim guidance for military medical treatment facilities (MTF) and military dental treatment facilities (DTF) Directors:

Resuming Full Healthcare Operations, Communications Toolkit

- The Military Health System (MHS) Communications Division has released a toolkit providing a wide range of communication materials, talking points, and key messages to aid with informing beneficiaries about the resumption of full healthcare operations at military hospitals and clinics across the MHS enterprise. The full toolkit is available here: <https://www.milsuite.mil/book/docs/DOC-827434>.

CDC Guidance: The following updates to CDC-issued guidance should inform MTF and DTF operations:

CDC updates, expands list of people at risk of severe COVID-19 illness

<https://www.cdc.gov/media/releases/2020/p0625-update-expands-covid-19.html>

- Risk increases steadily as a person ages, and it's not just those over the age of 65 who are at increased risk for severe illness.
- Specific conditions increase a person's risk of severe COVID-19 illness:
 - Chronic kidney disease
 - Chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD)
 - Obesity (body mass index of 30 or higher)
 - Immunocompromised state (weakened immune system) from solid organ transplant
 - Serious heart conditions, such as heart failure, coronary artery disease, or cardiomyopathies
 - Sickle cell disease
 - Type 2 diabetes
- CDC also clarifies the list of other conditions that might increase a person's risk of severe illness, including additions such as asthma, high blood pressure, neurologic conditions such as dementia, cerebrovascular disease such as stroke, and pregnancy.

People Who Are at Increased Risk for Severe Illness

<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/need-extra-precautions/people-at-increased-risk.html>

- Older adults: <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/need-extra-precautions/older-adults.html>
- People with underlying medical conditions: <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/need-extra-precautions/groups-at-higher-risk.html>

Communications:

- Markets and Direct Support Elements distribute this guidance to all MTF and DTF Directors, MTF and DTF healthcare providers and others, as appropriate.
- For additional information contact the DHA Assistant Director – Combat Support Operations Branch at: dha.ncr.healthcare-ops.mbx.dhahcoops-operations@mail.mil or (703) 681-8333.

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Director