



DEFENSE HEALTH AGENCY
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MEMORANDUM FOR DIRECTOR, NATIONAL CAPITAL REGION MARKET
DIRECTOR, JACKSONVILLE MARKET
DIRECTOR, COASTAL MISSISSIPPI MARKET
DIRECTOR, CENTRAL NORTH CAROLINA MARKET

SUBJECT: Updated Guidance for Performing Temperature Checks at Military Medical Treatment Facilities (MTFs) and Dental Treatment Facilities (DTFs)

This guidance is an update to Defense Health Agency Return to Full Operations Concept of Operations, V5.0 (June 12, 2020) as it pertains to temperature checks in MTFs and DTFs. Based on recommendations from the Centers for Disease Control (CDC), previous guidance directed MTFs to take the temperature of all individuals entering the facility. Effective immediately, temperature checks are not required; however, screening of individuals entering MTFs and DTFs and healthcare personnel on duty in the MTF or DTF is to continue.

Healthcare personnel should be encouraged to self-screen prior to reporting to work and not enter the workplace if any of the following are present:

- Symptoms of COVID-19
- Fever equal to or higher than 100.4°F (a lower temperature threshold, such as 100.0°F, may be used for healthcare settings)
- Are under evaluation for COVID-19 (e.g., waiting for results of a viral test)
- Have been diagnosed with COVID-19 and not yet cleared to discontinue isolation

MTFs and DTFs should ensure personnel and visitors practice social distancing and wear Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) because screening and health checks are not completely effective. Individuals may be asymptomatic, pre-symptomatic or mildly ill and pass through screening, yet be infectious. Therefore, the CDC considers screening of employees as an “optional” strategy: (<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/community/general-business-faq.html>).

MTF and DTF leaders have the authority to implement temperature checks at the local level, if desired, as informed by the current installation HPCON level and their public health authorities. DHA will update its formal guidance to this effect accordingly. My point of contact for this memo is COL Neil Page who may be reached at (703) 681-7181 or via email at neil.e.page.mil@mail.mil.

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