



**DEPARTMENT OF THE AIR FORCE  
6TH AIR REFUELING WING (AMC)  
MACDILL AIR FORCE BASE, FLORIDA**

23 March 2022

MEMORANDUM FOR INDIVIDUALS ON MACDILL AFB

FROM: 6 ARW/CC

SUBJECT: Transition to Health Protection Condition (HPCON) Alpha

References: (a) 6 ARW/CC, "Transition to Health Protection Condition Bravo," 24 February 2022 (*hereby superseded*).

(b) Secretary of the Air Force, "Department of the Air Force (DAF) Guidance for Commanders' Risk-Based Responses and Implementation of Health Protection Condition Framework during the Coronavirus Disease 2019 Pandemic," 19 May 2021.

(c) Secretary of Defense, "Guidance for Commanders' Risk-Based Responses and Implementation of the Health Protection Condition Framework during the Coronavirus Disease 2019 Pandemic," 29 April 2021.

(d) Under Secretary of Defense, "Force Health Protection Guidance (Supplement 18) Revision 1 – DoD Guidance for Protecting All Personnel in DoD Workplaces During the Coronavirus Disease 2019 Pandemic," 6 January 2022.

(e) 6 ARW/CC, "Updated Guidance for Use of Masks," 6 December 2021 (*hereby rescinded*).

(f) Deputy Secretary of Defense, "Updated Coronavirus Disease 2019 Guidance related to Travel and Meetings," 24 September 2021.

(g) Secretary of the Air Force memorandum, "Delegation of Authority, COVID-19 Guidance related to Travel and Meetings" 3 November 2021.

(h) Secretary of the Air Force memorandum, "Approval – Events With Less Than 250 Participants" 9 March 2022.

(i) Under Secretary of Defense, "Updated Guidance for Mask and Screening Testing for all DoD Installations and Other Facilities," 1 March 2022.

1. This letter supersedes the previous HPCON Bravo memo, Reference (a), and rescinds 6 ARW/CC, "Updated Guidance for Use of Masks" dated 6 December 2021, Reference (e). Due to the decreasing rate of COVID-19 cases as well as the current capacity of healthcare in the local community and on MacDill AFB, we are modifying the HPCON level from Bravo to **Alpha**. To continue minimizing the spread of COVID-19, the following guidance is in effect until updated or rescinded.

2. Unit and mission partner commanders will evaluate mission areas to ensure maximum COVID mitigation strategies are in place, prioritize staffing against essential tasks, and limit unnecessary exposure. Teleworking and virtual meetings should be used to the extent practical without degrading mission capabilities in accordance with References (b), (c), and (d). References (b) and (c) are the guides to achieve mission requirements while ensuring COVID-19 mitigation measures. MacDill AFB will utilize the 11 categorical exemptions included in Reference (b), with any further exemptions approved by 6 ARW/CC. Specifically exempted from workplace occupancy limits tied to HPCON levels are US Central Command Headquarters, US Special Operations Command

**MISSION FOCUSED...VALUED AIRMEN**

Headquarters, Marine Central Command Headquarters, the Navy Operational Support Center, RSSC-East, Joint Communications Support Element, the 6th Air Refueling Wing and the 927th Air Refueling Wing. HPCON Alpha limits workplace occupancy to **less than 100% of normal** occupancy; exemptions in addition to those previously listed shall be routed through the chain of command or from the mission partners to 6 ARW/CC for approval. When making an exemption decision, the 6 ARW/CC will weigh operational, readiness, and safety impacts as well as the mitigation measures, such as vaccination percentage, when considering the risk of allowing the spread of COVID-19 within the facility in question.

a. Mission essential activities and meetings are at the discretion of unit commanders, but in-person attendees should be kept to the minimum necessary for mission requirements in accordance with References (b) and (c).

b. According to DSD guidance, mission and non-mission essential activities, including promotions and retirements, may be approved by the unit commander, **not to exceed 50 people**, per Reference (f). For any planned in-person meetings, events, and conferences sponsored by DoD with more than 50 people, units must obtain advance approval from DoD or Component Head. **DAF units have a blanket approval up to 250 people**, and in accordance with References (g) and (h), any planned in-person meetings, events, and conferences sponsored by the DAF with more than 250 people must obtain advance approval from the Under Secretary of the Air Force.

3. While on MacDill AFB, all personnel will maintain strict hygiene measures, practice social distancing, and wear a mask when required in accordance with Reference (i). Regardless of CDC COVID-19 Community Level, individuals may choose to wear a mask.

4. With regard to travel for leave and pass (liberty), all personnel will follow their respective organizations' most current policies outlining restrictions, in addition to relevant DoD or Service-specific guidance.

5. Service members will abide by current guidelines for quarantine and isolation. If you are given a "Notice of Isolation" memorandum signed by our Public Health Emergency Officer (PHEO), due to illness or positive COVID-19 test results, you are not allowed to leave your residence except to receive required medical care. You should have no person-to-person contact with any non-isolation individuals except as approved by the PHEO.

6. While HPCON Alpha reduces restrictions, we are not yet in the clear. All individuals should still avoid social gatherings that do not readily allow for appropriate health and safety practices, whether on or off base. Our best defense to prevent severe illness and hospitalization due to COVID-19 and future variants is up-to-date vaccination (fully vaccinated and a booster shot), along with your cooperation in adhering to hand-washing, mask-wear when required, and social distancing.

BENJAMIN R. JONSSON, Colonel, USAF  
Commander