



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

24 February 2022

MEMORANDUM FOR ALL 6 ARW PERSONNEL

FROM: 6 ARW/CC

SUBJECT: Transition to Health Protection Condition (HPCON) Bravo

- References: (a) 6 ARW/CC, "Transition to Health Protection Condition Charlie," 6 January 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 (*hereby superseded*)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.
- (f) Deputy Secretary of Defense memorandum, 24 September 2021, *Updated Coronavirus Disease 2019 Guidance related to Travel and Meetings*
- (g) Secretary of the Air Force memorandum, "Delegation of Authority, COVID-19 Guidance related to Travel and Meetings" 3 November 2021.

1. This letter supersedes the previous HPCON Charlie memo, Reference (a). Due to the decreasing rate of COVID-19 cases as well as the increasing capacity of the standard of healthcare in the local community and on MacDill AFB, we are modifying the HPCON level from Charlie to **Bravo**. To continue minimizing the spread of COVID-19, the following guidance is in effect until updated or rescinded.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 manning against essential tasks, and limit unnecessary exposure. Teleworking and virtual meetings should be maximized to the greatest extent possible without degrading mission capabilities in accordance with References (b), (c), and (d). References (b) and (c) are the guides to achieve mission requirements while maximizing 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 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. Additional exemptions to the HPCON Bravo **50% workplace occupancy limit** 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. Mission and non-mission essential activities, including promotions and retirements, may be approved by the unit commander, **not to exceed 50 people**. In accordance with References (f) and (g), 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.

3. While on MacDill AFB, all personnel will maintain strict hygiene measures, practice social distancing (maintaining a distance of greater than 6 feet) and wear a mask in accordance with Reference (e). All personnel are strongly encouraged to wear masks at off-installation venues (e.g., bars, restaurants, etc.) where the vaccination status of others is unknown.

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. Individuals who are not fully vaccinated or decline to provide information about their vaccination status are limited to mission-critical official travel (for both domestic and international travel) in accordance with References (f) and (g).

5. Service members will abide by current guidelines for quarantine and isolation. If you are given a "Notice of Isolation" memorandum signed by our 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. All individuals should 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, appropriate mask-wear, and social distancing.

BENJAMIN R. JONSSON, Colonel, USAF
Commander