

MacDill Town Hall: Q & A
Facebook Live @ 1700, 07 Jan 2021

This document contains answers and progress updates for questions and/or concerns submitted at MacDill Town Halls, to the Commander's Action Line and to the MacDill Thought Box. Updates are made as they become available. Is your question, concern or idea not listed here? Submit it using any of the below avenues:

MacDill Thought Box:
Scan QR code or [click here](#)



Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/MacDillAirForceBase/>

Commander's Action Line: macdillwingcommander@us.af.mil

HILLSBOROUGH COUNTY SCHOOLS

- Q: My child is currently in distance/ virtual learning, I'm considering going back to the brick and mortar but I'm worried with the COVID-19 surge, we'll have to go back to the virtual environment. I know I can enroll, but will I be able to go back to the virtual environment if that's something I desire?
- Q: What are some safety precautions you have in place for students?

MEDICAL

- Q: Why is there no place to go for medical help on a holiday?
- Q: Has the DOD released information on when dependents may be eligible for a vaccine?
- Q: Can someone please clarify regarding the vaccine (since effectiveness depends upon receiving the initial dose and the booster several weeks later): Is it unknown IF that second dose is going to be available, or is the unknown just the specifics as to exactly when?
- Q: For clarity, we should call the numbers provided by the 6th Medical Group to find out when we qualify for the vaccine?
- Q: Will the COVID-19 vaccine be made available to FamCamp retirees?

MISSION SUPPORT GROUP

- Q: When will the Education Center and Base Library go back to normal operations?
- Q: When will the newly renovated bathrooms and showers at FamCamp be open for use?
- Q: When will Seascapes reopen?
- Q: Will the commissary go back to regular hours?
- Q: Why is the MacDill gate not open? Traffic is always backing up trying to leave base. Can you explain the gate procedures and ROEs (rules of engagement) in the COVID-19 environment?

RESILIENCY/MISCELLANEOUS

- Q: How do you think Airmen should cope with depression etc. as suicide rates in the AF remain high and COVID-19 related restrictions takes away social relationships
- Q: What is your charge to your group commanders, squadron commanders, Chiefs, NCOs, supervisors and Airmen on racial disparities and inclusiveness?
- Q: How can I come to work and feel valued based on my strong work ethic, dependability, responsibility and attitude when I am reminded daily of my different skin color compared to some of my other peers?
- Q: Will the two hour travel policy away from base be lifted or increased in the near future?

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A: If anyone wants to transition from e-learning to brick and mortar at any school in Hillsborough County, all they have to do is call the front office to be put in touch with the appropriate entity.

Q: What are some safety precautions you have in place for students?

A: We still mandate face coverings anytime that we are not engaged in eating or cannot maintain six feet of social distancing. We have hand sanitizer and hand washing stations around the campus that may have not otherwise been there. We also have controlled movement throughout buildings where we are utilizing one-way movement or moving in one direction like a one-way street.

Some locations are using plastic shields to separate groups of kids where it's appropriate and classrooms are very diligent on monitoring where the students sit so if we have to engage in contact tracing, we have a better sense of who might be affected by a potential quarantine if a positive case comes in. What we are seeing is cases being brought into our schools and not necessarily the school acting as an agent for more cases. We continue to do what we can and will continue to make that available to our students and our faculty as we have a strong partnership with Tampa General Hospital and USF Health in monitoring.

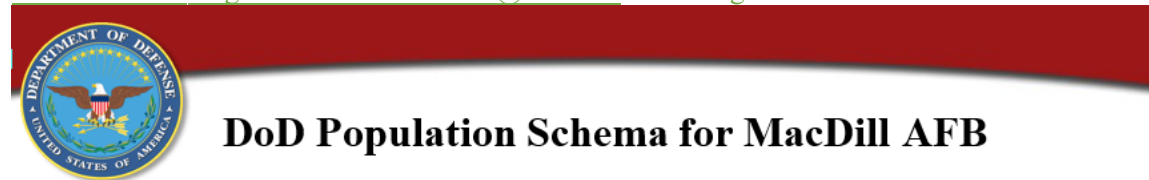
MEDICAL

Q: Why is there no place to go for medical help on a holiday? I was camping at Famcamp last weekend. All medical facilities were closed.

A: We fall under the Defense Health Agency, who determines our business practices. We are open on Family Days, however, on federal holidays and weekends, we are closed as determined by the Defense Health Agency. Our nurse advice line is available 24/7 and they can help direct beneficiaries to urgent care or any necessary medical attention during off-hours.

Q: Has the DOD released information on when dependents may be eligible for a vaccine?

A: For information regarding the availability of COVID-19 vaccines, beneficiaries should call the 6th Medical Group COVID-19 hotline at 813-827-1918 or email their organizational inbox at usaf.macdill.6-mdg.mbx.immunizations1@mail.mil. See image below.



DoD Population Schema for MacDill AFB

CDC Phase	DoD Phase Levels	Population Group
Phase 1a	<p>All healthcare providers, healthcare support personnel, and emergency services & public safety personnel</p> <p>Healthcare and support personnel at Military Medical Treatment Facility (MTF) outpatient clinics, and ambulatory care facilities (including but not limited to dental clinics, medical homes, blood donation facilities, and counseling centers)</p> <p>Military, civilian, contractor personnel, students, and other hospital non-clinical staff authorized to receive vaccinations from DoD and who support patient care and are at heightened risk of exposure to individuals who have contracted COVID-19.</p>	<p>Sub-tier 1 - First Responders (i.e., Emergency Medical Services personnel, police, and fire personnel)</p> <p>Sub-tier 2 - None</p> <p>Sub-tier 3 - 6th MDG Personnel</p>
Phase 1b.1	Critical National Capabilities	- National leadership (senior staff), USSOCOM-national mission force personnel
Phase 1b.2	Personnel preparing to deploy to locations outside the United States/ DoD Beneficiaries ≥ 75 years	- Personnel scheduled to deploy OCONUS within the next 3 months and individuals on stand-by missions. This includes military, civilian, and contractor personnel authorized to receive vaccines from DoD. - DoD Beneficiaries ≥ 75 years
Phase 1c.1	DoD Beneficiaries ≥ 65-74 years those ≥ 16-65 with increased risk for severe illness as defined by CDC ⁴	- DoD Beneficiaries ≥ 65-74 years - DoD Beneficiaries ≥ 16-65 with increased risk for severe illness as defined by CDC - Other critical and essential personnel are described as personnel whose work-related duties must be performed on-site and involve being in close proximity (<6 feet) to the public or to coworkers - Incarcerated and detainee populations
Phase 2	All persons aged ≥ 16 years not previously recommended for vaccination	- Healthy uniformed personnel (including new accessions, service academies) and beneficiaries and those not otherwise mentioned above authorized to receive vaccines from DoD.

The CDC and DoD Phases are very similar, with the DoD Phases being more specific and including certain military populations not described in the CDC Phases.

Q: Can someone please clarify regarding the vaccine (since effectiveness depends upon receiving the initial dose and the booster several weeks later): Is it unknown IF that second dose is going to be available, or is the unknown just the specifics as to exactly when?

A: Our priority is to make sure that everyone gets the first dose. We currently received our first doses from Pfizer, our next dose could be from another company. So, it's very important to do the two vaccines from the same company. When you receive your vaccine, you'll get a card that says, when you're eligible to get your next vaccine.

Q: For clarity, we should call the numbers provided by the 6th Medical Group to find out when we qualify for the vaccine?


A: Correct! For information regarding the availability of COVID-19 vaccines, beneficiaries should call the 6th Medical Group COVID-19 hotline at 813-827-1918 or email their organizational inbox at usaf.macdill.6-mdg.mbx.immunizations1@mail.mil.

Q: Will the COVID-19 vaccine be made available to FamCamp retirees?

A: For information regarding the availability of COVID-19 vaccines, beneficiaries should call the 6th Medical Group COVID-19 vaccine line at 813-827-1918 or email their organizational inbox at usaf.macdill.6-mdg.mbx.immunizations1@mail.mil.

For COVID-19-19 Vaccine related questions, please use one of the following methods below.

1. Call the COVID-19-19 Vaccine line at 813-827-1918
2. Email the COVID-19-19 Vaccine Org box at usaf.macdill.6-mdg.mbx.immunizations1@mail.mil



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For medical related questions, please contact your Primary Care Team by using one of the methods below.

1. Call the appointment line at 813-827-2273

2. Send a secure message through Tricare online

<https://www.tricareonline.com/tol2/prelogin/desktopIndex.xhtml>

<https://m.facebook.com/6thMedicalGroup/>

MISSION SUPPORT GROUP

Q: When will the Education Center and Base Library go back to normal operations?

A: The Education Center is currently open virtually for services and educational opportunities. COVID-19 trends are closely monitored and once it reaches an acceptable risk, discussions will happen on when to open these services back up.

Q: When will the newly renovated bathrooms and showers at FamCamp be open for use?

A: Currently due to the risk of transmission of COVID-19, the newly renovated restrooms at FamCamp are closed. COVID-19 trends are closely monitored and once it reaches an acceptable risk, discussions will happen on when to open these services back up.

Q: When will Seascapes reopen?

A: Seascapes will reopen in the future. In September of 2020, we transitioned away to a new contract and in the COVID-19 environment, it just takes a little time. In addition to that, there is some facility work that needs to be done before we can open that up and provide good quality food service. We're working very hard to make those facility improvements, and our human resources folks are working very hard to build that that cadre of professionals, so more to come.

Q: Will the commissary go back to regular hours?

A: There is one hour set aside every day from 0900-1000 for active duty members and their dependents to shop. That is not a matter of convenience but a mission imperative. This opens a time for those active duty members to get in and get what they need to help risk of transmission so they do not have to go downtown to Publix or Walmart. We are constantly looking at the opportunity to open that back up for retirees.

Q: Why is the MacDill gate not open? Traffic is always backing up trying to leave base. Can you explain the gate procedures and ROEs (rules of engagement) in the COVID-19 environment?

A: Operational gate hours are determined based on traffic demand. Right now, the traffic counts don't dictate that the MacDill gate be opened right now. Currently, traffic is lower than normal. There are concerns with the intersection at Bayshore and Zemki. Please take into account the high number of individuals that we have working and living on MacDill as we have to allow access to that traffic flow.

RESILIENCY/MISCELLANEOUS

Q: How do you think Airmen should cope with depression etc. as suicide rates in the AF remain high and COVID-19 related restrictions takes away social relationships?

A: What I would encourage you to do is to reach out. We are working hard to communicate to each one of our Airmen that we all are going to go through difficult times, it is okay to ask for help. We all have a responsibility as Airmen, civilian or uniform, to really pay attention to warning signs. We've been trained quite specifically and equipped so it's incumbent upon us to ask the hard question. The impact of asking the tough questions can save someone's life. Be focused on warning signs and the care and concern for fellow wingmen during this challenging season.

At the end of the day, we have we have great resources and mental health resources chaplain resources and a whole scope of resilience resources to help people get through any dark periods.

For the MacDill AFB Integrated Resiliency Office:

Ms. Lisa Williams, Team MacDill Community Support Coordinator/Integrated Resilience Office
813-828-9338

<https://m.facebook.com/MacDill-Integrated-Resilience-108727264095931/#> =
www.resilience.af.mil

For Chaplain Services:

813-828-3621

https://www.macdill.af.mil/chapel/fbclid/IwAR0GfUIP-uCxEx9Wt_Ysj3aDhnufE07vpW7PZlC9CuKEbPHjkIuvtgM4cR8/
<https://www.facebook.com/6amwhc/>

Q: What is your charge to your group commanders, squadron commanders, Chiefs, NCOs, supervisors and Airmen on racial disparities and inclusiveness?

A: Valuing diversity inclusion is a mission imperative. There is a Presidential executive order that has suspended formal training on diversity and inclusion topics. What it didn't suspend is the discussions that we have at the unit level on these topics, which are in fact encouraged by Air Force leadership and expected by the Wing Commander; that these discussions are continuing in a way that builds understanding and as a result builds strength, resiliency and ultimately mission readiness.

Q: How can I come to work and feel valued based on my strong work ethic, dependability, responsibility and attitude when I am reminded daily of my different skin color compared to some of my other peers?

A: Every unit should be having small group type discussions on race and other forms of diversity that build understanding and resilience. Leadership has been charged by the Wing Commander to stretch themselves in what is read in books and articles to ensure everyone is trying to understand blind spots. Leadership has also been charged with developing diverse talent as one of the things identified in the Inspector General Report was disparities in racial demographics with leadership opportunities, military justice and professional military education in some cases.

A wing climate survey will launch the week of January 11, 2021. It is designed to understand climates in which we serve and helps command teams understand where problem areas are when it comes to climate. It's an anonymous survey and every Airman is encouraged to participate.

Q: Will the two hour travel policy away from base be lifted or increased in the near future?

A: Currently, there is no COVID-19 restriction for taking leave. Personal leave is at the group commander level but delegated to squadron commanders. For personal travel overseas, that is at my level but is delegated to group commanders. Something to make note of is COVID-19 transmission is happening during travel so remain diligent in using personal health protection measures such as wearing a mask and social distancing.