



DEPARTMENT OF THE AIR FORCE AIR EDUCATION AND TRAINING COMMAND

11 August 2021

PUBLIC HEALTH EMERGENCY ORDER 12

TITLE: Public Health Directive for Personnel Assigned or Attached to Keesler Air Force Base during the COVID-19 Public Health Emergency.

PURPOSE: To identify and regulate conduct that is prejudicial to the good order and discipline, health, safety, and mission effectiveness of Keesler Air Force Base (AFB) during the Public Health Emergency.

- REFERENCES:**
- (a) Public Health Emergency Order 11, 14 May 21 (hereby canceled)
 - (b) AF/A1 Message "STOP MOVEMENT and Concurrent Guidance Related To Travel Restrictions due to the Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19) – (Supersedes Previous Guidance – Incorporates Updates as of 21 Jun 21)
 - (c) Deputy Secretary of Defense Memorandum, "Use of Masks and Other Public Health Measures," 4 Feb 21
 - (d) Deputy Secretary of Defense Memorandum, "Updated Mask Guidelines for Vaccinated Persons," 13 May 2021
 - (e) Secretary of Defense Memorandum, "Update to Conditions-based Approach to Coronavirus Disease 2019 Personnel Movement and Travel Restrictions," 16 Mar 21
 - (f) Under Secretary of Defense of Personnel and Readiness Memorandum, "Force Protection Guidance (Supplement 20) – Department of Defense Guidance for Personnel Traveling During the Coronavirus Disease 2019 Pandemic," 12 Apr 21
 - (g) Under Secretary of Defense Personnel and Readiness Memorandum, "Force Health Protection Guidance (Supplement 18) – Department of Defense Guidance for Protecting All Personnel in Department of Defense Workplaces During the Coronavirus Disease 2019 Pandemic," 17 Mar 21
 - (h) Secretary of the Air Force Memorandum, "Department of the Air Force Guidance on Use of Masks," 16 Feb 21
 - (i) Under Secretary of Defense Personnel and Readiness Memorandum, "Force Health Protection Guidance (Supplement 17) Revision 1 – Department of Defense Guidance for the Use of Masks, Personal Protective Equipment, and Non-Pharmaceutical Interventions During the Coronavirus Disease 2019 Pandemic," 22 Jun 21
 - (j) Deputy Secretary of Defense Memorandum, "Updated Mask Guidance for all DoD Installations and Other Facilities," 28 Jul 21

AUTHORITIES: Sections 243, 248, 249 and 264-272 of Title 42, Code of Federal Regulations (C.F.R.); 42 C.F.R. Parts 70 and 71; Title 5, United States Code (U.S.C.) § 301; 5 U.S.C. § 7106; 10 U.S.C. §§ 877-934; 10 U.S.C. § 2672; 10 U.S.C. § 9013; 18 U.S.C. § 797; 50 U.S.C. § 797; Department of Defense Instruction (DoDI) 6200.03, *Public Health Emergency Management (PHEM) Within the DoD*, 28 March 2019; Air Force Instruction (AFI) 10-2519, *Public Health Emergencies and Incidents of Public Health Concern*, 10 December 2019

STATEMENT OF MILITARY PURPOSE AND NECESSITY: The Public Health Emergency resulting from the impact of COVID-19 has created the necessity to protect DoD installations, property, and other assets, as well as service members assigned or attached to Keesler AFB. Adhering to preventive activities specified in this order is essential to ensure mission accomplishment and to protect the health, safety, and welfare of members of the United States and partner nations. In addition, the Public Health

Emergency makes it prudent to restrict movement through conditional release, quarantine, or isolation to maintain good order and discipline and ensure optimal force readiness.

APPLICABILITY: This Public Health Emergency Order applies as indicated below.

DEFINITIONS: The definition of the term “service member” as used in this order is a member of the U.S. Armed Forces to include members of the National Guard or Reserve Component on Title 10 orders. “Students” are defined as non-prior service members assigned or attached to Keesler AFB for a formal Air Force training course and/or program. “International student” refers to any service member of a foreign military or foreign national with orders to Keesler AFB. “DoD civilian employees” refers to both General Schedule and Non-Appropriated Fund employees. “DoD contractor” refers to the contractor and its associated employees. “Civilian” refers to dependents, retirees and other non-service member personnel. “Member” refers to any person on Keesler AFB.

1. PUBLIC HEALTH DIRECTIVES FOR KEESLER AFB

Applicability: This includes service members, students, international students, DoD civilian employees, DoD contractors, and all other individuals on or accessing Keesler AFB.

a. Limit Gatherings. Keesler AFB on-duty activities are limited to no more than 50% of room capacity. Exceptions for mission- and service-essential activities must be approved at the Squadron commander or higher level, with proper physical distancing and sanitation protocols in place. Gatherings require the wear of face coverings, as directed below.

b. Fitness Centers. Fitness Centers are limited to fully vaccinated individuals.

(1) **Proof of vaccination is required for entry and use of the facility.**

(a) **Caveat:** Unvaccinated Airmen in official PT uniform can shower after official PT and conduct height/weight measurements for their official PT tests; they must remain masked at all times

(2) Mask wear is required when not exercising.

(3) Fitness classes executed at reduced sizes.

(4) Physical Fitness Tests will continue to be administered. The Fitness Assessment Cell will send updated guidance and instructions to Commanders and Unit Fitness Program Managers.

c. Physical Distancing. In accordance with current CDC guidelines, all members are to maintain a minimum of six feet distance from other members to the maximum extent practicable at all times.

d. Face Coverings. A cloth face covering or face mask is required to be functional, clean, and cover the nose and mouth at the same time. Masks must conform to Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) guidelines. Questions regarding the face coverings provision of this order should be directed to the member’s chain of command. Squadron commanders or higher are authorized to resolve questions based on the intent of this order.

(1) All members, regardless of vaccination, should continue to follow applicable DoD and CDC guidance, including continuing to wear masks indoors, with exception of the following locations/situations: **(NOTE: The ability to set a more restrictive mask wear within a squadron is hereby delegated to Squadron Commanders or higher. Commanders have the authority to verify the vaccination status of Service members. Non-compliance may result in administrative action, punitive action under the Uniform Code of Military Justice (UCMJ), and/or services being denied.)**

(a) An individual’s home, including base housing, dorm rooms, and lodging rooms with members of their households;

(b) When an individual is alone in an office with floor-to-ceiling walls with a closed door;

(c) For brief periods of time when eating and drinking while maintaining distancing in accordance with CDC guidelines and instructions from commanders and supervisors;

(d) When the mask is required to be lowered briefly for identification or security purposes;

(e) When necessary to reasonably accommodate an individual with a disability;

(2) Commanders may make case-by-case exceptions to the requirement to wear a mask, when implementation will significantly impede mission accomplishment.

(3) Masks are not required when Occupational Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) is being used (e.g., PPE used by personnel on the Respiratory Protection Program, surgical masks in the healthcare setting, fire fighters wearing supplied air respirators, Airmen wearing CBRN masks, etc.).

e. Handwashing. All members are highly encouraged to wash their hands or use hand sanitizer upon entering **any** installation facilities.

f. Sanitizing Workspace and Common Use Areas. All members are highly encouraged to sanitize each work station in their work areas at the end of each shift or training session.

g. Off-base COVID-19 Testing. Service Members if you are tested off-base for COVID-19, you must notify your Supervisor if you have a positive result. Unit commanders, ensure to notify Public Health of the positive result as soon as possible to initiate Contact Tracing.

2. PUBLIC HEALTH LIMITATIONS FOR KEESLER AFB

a. Students.

(1) Will continue to adhere to current Phase restrictions.

(2) Will adhere to radius restrictions set pursuant to this paragraph. The ability to set the Keesler Air Force Base radius restriction for the 81st Training Group and 81st Medical Group's students is hereby delegated to the respective Group Commander.

(3) Prohibited locations/activities. Squadron commanders or higher are authorized to resolve questions based on the intent of this order. **The following non-exclusive list of off-installation activities/locations are prohibited for students: off-base bars, nightclubs, etc. where the primary purpose of the location is to sell alcohol for consumption on the premises and/or the member's primary purpose for being at the location is to consume alcohol on those premises.**

b. Telework. Squadron commanders have been delegated authority to approve telework positions and to direct telework in response to the National State of Emergency for COVID-19 and Center for Disease Control directives in accordance with Office of Personnel Management, DODI 1035.01, and AFI 36-816, *Civilian Telework Program*, guidance. Squadron commanders must ensure all telework requirements are completed in accordance with the Civilian Personnel Office instructions. If you have any questions regarding the Civilian Telework Program, please contact your Human Resources Specialist. **Commanders and supervisors will not ask about a member's vaccination status or use information about a member's vaccination status to make decisions about how and when members will report to a workplace instead of teleworking.**

Applicability: This includes service members, international students, DoD civilian employees, and DoD contractors (through coordination with the Contracting Officer Representative).

c. Local Leave Area. The Local Leave Area policy is hereby cancelled. Pre and Post Travel Risk Assessments are mandatory for service members for all multi-day/overnight travel.

d. Conditions-Based Criteria for Unrestricted Travel. See paragraph 2(e) for mandatory assessments.

Applicability: This is mandatory for service members. For students, paragraph 2(d)(1) is mandatory if applicable; paragraph 2(d)(2) is subject to all restrictions from paragraph 2(a). For DoD civilian employees, paragraph 2(d)(1) is mandatory for official travel; it is highly encouraged for paragraph 2(d)(2). If applicable, it is highly encouraged for international students, DoD contractors, and all other civilians on or accessing Keesler AFB.

(1) All **PCS** and **TDY** travel is authorized when:

(a) Conditions-based criteria for unrestricted travel¹ may resume when the criteria for installations are met for both the gaining (destination) AND losing (origin) locations; **or**

(b) Service member meets exemption criteria listed in Reference b; **or**

(c) When service members have a “waiver to travel” signed by the first O-6 in the member’s chain of command.²

(2) All **multi-day leave, pass, or non-official travel outside of the state of Mississippi** is authorized when travel assessments are completed and travel is approved. **Authorized leave outside Mississippi will be approved at the Supervisor level.** Travel on special pass/liberty may be approved at levels lower than the unit commander or equivalent IAW AFI 36-3003. Travel Assessments will be accomplished in accordance with paragraph 2(e).

(a) DoD personnel will comply with any DoD, Federal, State and local restrictions when in a leave status.

(b) Commanders and supervisors should use the Attachment 6 to determine recommended status for service members and students.

(3) **Leave, pass, or non-official travel within the state of Mississippi does not require pre- or post-travel assessments.** **Single-day** trips outside the state of Mississippi during a leave or pass period otherwise conducted within the state of Mississippi (i.e. the member will return the same day and will NOT be lodging out of state) also do not require pre or post-travel assessments.

e. Pre and Post Travel Risk Assessments

Applicability: This is mandatory for service members and students. For DoD civilian employees, it is mandatory for official travel; it is highly encouraged DoD civilian employees complete the assessments and discuss the results with their supervisor for unofficial travel. It is highly encouraged that international students, DoD contractors, and all other civilians on or accessing Keesler AFB complete the assessments and use them to mitigate their risks of contracting COVID-19 during travel.

(1) Prior to the approval of travel under paragraph 2(d), **commanders and/or supervisors** must conduct a risk **assessment for the member requesting travel using the following criteria (Note: This assessment can be accomplished via email):**

(a) **Personnel should not travel if they display a fever or other symptoms consistent with**

¹ “Conditions based criteria for unrestricted travel” for PCS and TDY rests on installation-level data regarding conditions in and surrounding DoD installations, facilities, and locations. The status of travel will be posted weekly on Defense.gov, MilitaryOneSource.mil, and myPers.

² Waivers may be granted where the travel is: determined to be mission essential; necessary for humanitarian reasons; or warranted due to extreme hardship. These waivers **must** be coordinated between the gaining and losing command.

COVID-19 or if they have had close contact with someone who has tested positive for COVID-19 within the past 14 days. Personnel will comply with any DoD, Federal, State, and local restrictions while in a leave status; and

(b) Risk assessments should, at a minimum, include a review of State and local restrictions and pre- and post-travel health status assessments and travel screening.

(2) During the approved travel under paragraph 2(d), **commanders and/or supervisors** will establish a means of communication with the member and prescribe actions to mitigate the risk of contracting COVID-19 for their particular circumstances; and

(3) After return from travel under paragraph 2(d), **commanders and/or supervisors** must conduct a risk assessment **via email using the following questions**. Based on that assessment, the member's squadron commander or higher will determine if travel will necessitate Self-Monitoring³ or Restriction of Movement (ROM).

(a) Do you or personnel in your household, regardless of vaccination, currently (last 14 days) have symptoms consistent with COVID-19? If 'yes' Contact Public Health for guidance. If 'no' Self-Monitor.

(b) Have you had close contact (you have spent more than a total of 15 minutes in a 24-hour period within 6 feet of an individual with suspected/confirmed active COVID-19 infection; this includes the time period of contact starting from 2 days before illness onset.) If 'yes' Contact Public Health for guidance. If 'no' Self-Monitor

(c) Have you been tested for COVID-19 in the last 14-days? If 'yes' contact Public Health for guidance, and **ROM (Conditional Release)**. *See Note below.*

(d) Did you adhere to physical distancing and personal hygiene throughout travel duration? If 'yes' Self-Monitor. If 'no' **ROM (Conditional Release)**. *See Note below.*

NOTE: **ROM (Conditional Release)** (Unit Commander' discretion; commander may consult with installation Public Health office). Alternately, after an appropriate risk assessment, Unit CC may authorize: 10-day for ROM if testing not available -- or -- 7-day ROM with a negative COVID-19 test within 48 hours of the end of the 7-day ROM.

3. RESTRICTION OF MOVEMENT: CONDITIONAL RELEASE, QUARANTINE, ISOLATION. In accordance with DoD and Public Health guidance, members may be placed in varying levels of Restriction of Movement (ROM)⁴, to include Conditional Release⁵, Quarantine⁶, and Isolation⁷ depending on travel, contact with COVID-positive persons, and/or medical symptoms. **When a potential ROM issue arises, commanders or supervisors should contact Public Health for the latest CDC guidance.**

³ **Self-Monitoring:** Personnel in self-monitoring are to self-monitor for fever, cough, or difficulty breathing. To the extent possible, personnel should implement physical distancing. Personnel who experience symptoms should immediately notify their chain of command and contact Public Health for further direction.

⁴ **Restriction of Movement (ROM):** Limiting movement of an individual or group to prevent or diminish the transmission of COVID-19, including limiting ingress and egress to, from, or on a military installation; isolation; quarantine; and conditional release.

⁵ **Conditional Release:** Conditional Release (formerly known as commander-directed quarantine) is a form of ROM that allows monitoring of those who may have been exposed to COVID-19. Members are to immediately notify their chain of command and Public Health if they become symptomatic.

⁶ **Quarantine:** Quarantine is a medical form of ROM. Quarantine is the separation of an individual that **has been identified as a close contact as determined by Public Health**, but is not yet ill.

⁷ **Isolation:** Isolation is a medical form of ROM. Isolation is the separation of an individual **infected** or reasonably believed to be infected with COVID-19.

4. COVID-19 POOLED SURVEILLANCE TESTING

a. In order to maintain readiness and protect the force, I hereby authorize and direct COVID-19 pooled surveillance testing of asymptomatic individuals on Keesler AFB to measure the presence of SARS-CoV-2 in the base population. This is pursuant to the authorities vested within the Department of Defense Instruction (DoDI) 6200.03, Public Health Emergency Management (PHEM) Within the DoD, Air Force Instruction (AFI) 10-2519, Public Health Emergencies and Incidents of Public Health Concern, and the Manual for Courts Martial (2019), Military Rules of Evidence (MRE), Rules 312 and 313.

b. STATEMENT OF MILITARY PURPOSE AND NECESSITY FOR POOLED SURVEILLANCE TESTING: Based on recent CDC models, 59% of COVID-19 transmissions occur from asymptomatic individuals. The COVID-19 pooled surveillance testing effort is a vital mechanism to ensure personnel are present, fit and ready for duty. Moreover, pooled surveillance is a critical source of real-time data to gage the effectiveness of mitigation measures or the necessity of additional measures to ensure the Keesler mission.

c. In order to implement my direction, the Medical Group, the installation Public Health Emergency Officer (PHEO), the PHEO deputy, and other Public Health and Medical Group personnel (“Medical Group”) shall establish a COVID-19 pooled surveillance testing program that complies with applicable DoD and Air Force guidance. The Medical Group shall coordinate with unit commanders for notification of service members and students selected for COVID-19 pooled surveillance testing.

d. All service members and students selected for COVID-19 pooled surveillance testing will provide a nasal swab sample for COVID-19 pooled surveillance testing purposes. Failure to do so constitutes the violation of a lawful order and may be punishable under Article 92, UCMJ.

e. All DoD civilian employees that are also Tricare beneficiaries may be included in pooled surveillance testing. Upon notification, DoD civilian employees will be informed their participation is voluntary.

5. PUNITIVE ORDER: Paragraphs 1(g), 2, 3, and 4 of this order are punitive. Service members and students violating this order are subject to adverse administrative action or punitive action under the UCMJ. International students may be subject to appropriate administrative or judicial actions in accordance with their host nation governing directives. DoD civilian employees may be subject to appropriate administrative actions. All others may be subject to applicable laws and regulations and/or have their access to Keesler AFB restricted. The intent of this order is not to preempt already enumerated UCMJ offenses. If a court or higher authority supersedes or determines a provision within this order is legally unenforceable or insufficient, the unaffected portions of this order will remain enforceable.

6. INDIVIDUAL DUTY: Personnel subject to this order have the individual responsibility to know and understand the prohibitions contained herein.

7. LEADER RESPONSIBILITY: This order charges all commanders assigned to 81st Training Wing and tenant unit commanders, senior leaders, senior national representatives, directors, training leaders, instructors, and supervisors to brief ALL SERVICE MEMBERS, STUDENTS, INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS and DOD CIVILIAN EMPLOYEES on the requirements of this order. All contractors will be notified of the contents of this order through their Contract Officer Representative.

8. EFFECTIVE DATE: This order is effective immediately.

9. EXPIRATION: This order will expire when the Keesler AFB Public Health Emergency has been declared complete, or when rescinded, or revised and re-published by the Keesler AFB Installation Commander or higher authority.

WILLIAM H. HUNTER, Colonel, USAF
Installation Commander