



**DEPARTMENTS OF THE ARMY AND THE AIR FORCE
JOINT FORCE HEADQUARTERS - ALASKA
OFFICE OF THE ADJUTANT GENERAL
PO BOX 5800
JOINT BASE ELMENDORF-RICHARDSON, AK 99505**

12 March 2020

Commander's Note #4

FROM: JFHQ AKNG/OTAG

SUBJECT: Novel Coronavirus 2019 (COVID-19) mitigation measures

1. As all are aware, Governor Mike Dunleavy issued a Public Health Disaster Emergency Declaration for the state of Alaska. There are currently no confirmed cases in Alaska and we continue to prepare to respond when the time comes. There are simple measures that all Soldiers and Airmen must take to mitigate the risk of exposure and to ensure that we protect our coworkers and loved ones.
2. Follow these simple protective measures to reduce the risk of infection:
 - a. Wash your hands often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds.
 - b. Avoid touching your eyes, nose, or mouth with unwashed hands.
 - c. Avoid close contact with people who are sick.
 - d. Implement social distancing plan of six feet of separation, as best as the situation will allow.
3. Education is paramount. Ensure that you educate yourself on COVID-19 by utilizing reputable sources. Excellent resources for more information are as follows:
 - a. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC): www.cdc.gov/
 - b. Alaska Department of Health and Social Services (DHSS): dhss.alaska.gov/Pages/default.aspx
4. Commander's guidance.
 - a. Telecommute policy is under review and more guidance will be forthcoming. When this guidance is issued, all members will follow their components/HRO approved telecommute policy as needed or implemented.
 - b. TDY Guidance in accordance and addition to DoD Memorandum dated 11 March 2020. Effective immediately until further notice, all out-of-state TDYs (Title 32) are postponed unless mission essential. Conferences, workshops and seminars are not considered mission essential. Professional Military Education and military school travel approval has been delegated to ATAG level.
 - c. All components will create and maintain a list of mission essential personnel to include recall rosters and contact information.
 - d. Communication: Members of the AKNG will maximize the use of all communication tools available (AtHoc, desktop alert, etc.) in order to ensure open lines of communication.

- AtHoc New User: <https://alerts7.athoc.com/SelfService/AKMVA>

e. Media Contact: DMVA military, DoD civilian and state personnel who are contacted by the media may direct reporters to Lt Col Candis Olmstead, public affairs officer, at 907-428-6030 or candis.olmstead@alaska.gov.

f. Messaging: - DHSS is the lead state agency for response and communications efforts.

- DMVA is prepared to assist civil authorities as requested, in support of the state's efforts. In response to the Public Health Disaster Emergency Declaration, DMVA's Division of Homeland Security and Emergency Management (DHSEM) is activating the State Emergency Operations Center (SEOC), setting up a unified command with DHSS and Department of Public Safety, and will provide Alaska Organized Militia (AKNG, State Defense Force and Naval Militia) response efforts as appropriate.

g. We have the equipment, facilities, personnel, training and experience to provide logistical, transportation and safety requirements to state as needed and requested by state partners. Additionally, we have personnel, aircraft and ground transportation on standby, ready to assist if required.

h. State Active Duty (StAD): Components will maintain a list of StAD volunteers and work closely with the Directorate of Administration to ensure a seamless transition to StAD and return to duty.

5. Lastly, maximize communication with you chain of command. The Department of Military and Veterans Affairs (DMVA) has been working with federal, state, local and tribal partner agencies to ensure Alaska is best postured to respond to a COVID-19 occurrence. Effective and open communication is crucial to a possible response.

6. Our most important asset is our people. Thank you for all that you do every day and in particular as we prepare for the future response.



TORRENCE W. SAXE, Maj Gen, AKNG
The Adjutant General



THE STATE
of **ALASKA**
GOVERNOR MIKE DUNLEAVY

****COVID-19 HEALTH ALERT****

Issued March 12, 2020

By: Dr. Anne Zink, Chief Medical Officer, State of Alaska

In order to prevent or slow the spread of Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19), the State of Alaska is recommending all Alaskans become familiar with the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's (CDC) [guidance on community mitigation](#). We are advising Alaskans to implement protective measures outlined in the "preparedness phase" and to strongly consider implementing the "minimal to moderate" activities (see page 3). Examples of social distancing strategies that should be followed now include:

For the General Public

- Stay home if you are sick with a respiratory illness. If you develop a fever, stay home for at least 24 hours after the fever subsides.
- Stay at least 6 feet away from anyone who is coughing, sneezing, or feeling feverish.
- Avoid large gatherings and crowded places as much as possible.
- Avoid shaking hands and hugging as much as possible.
- If you live in a rural area, consider limiting non-essential travel to protect your community.

For High-Risk Groups

- This group includes persons aged 60 years and over, and persons with underlying medical conditions such as heart disease, lung disease, diabetes, or other immune compromising illnesses.
- When you go out in public, try to maintain at least 6 feet distance from people – especially from people who are sick.
- Avoid crowds as much as possible, especially large gatherings.
- Avoid cruise travel and non-essential air travel.

For Businesses and Employers

- Use videoconferencing for meetings when possible.
- When not possible, hold meetings in open, well-ventilated spaces.
- Consider adjusting or postponing large meetings or gatherings
- Assess the risks of business travel.

- Encourage liberal leave policies and teleworking options for staff.

For Schools

- Consider adjusting or postponing gatherings that mix between classes, grades, and other schools.
- Adjust after-school arrangements to avoid mixing between classes, grades, and other schools.

Considerations for Event Planners

- Please read CDC's guidance for event planners: [cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/community/large-events/mass-gatherings-ready-for-covid-19.html](https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/community/large-events/mass-gatherings-ready-for-covid-19.html)
- Consider cancelling, postponing, or adjusting large in-person events.
- Explore offering video/audio/electronic alternatives.

For Religions and Faith-based Organizations

- Please read [CDC's guidance for religious and faith-based organizations](https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/community/faith-based.html).

Guidance on community mitigation: www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/downloads/community-mitigation-strategy.pdf

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Printable versions of State of Alaska Health Alerts are posted to the DHSS COVID-19 website at coronavirus.alaska.gov.

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SECRETARY OF DEFENSE
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WASHINGTON, DC 20301-1000

3/11/2020

MEMORANDUM FOR: SEE DISTRIBUTION

SUBJECT: Travel Restrictions for DoD Components in Response to Coronavirus Disease 2019

- References: (a) Office of the Under Secretary of Defense for Personnel and Readiness Memorandum, "Force Health Protection Guidance (Supplement 4) – "Department of Defense Guidance for Personnel Traveling During the Novel Coronavirus Outbreak" March 11, 2020
(b) DoD Instruction 6200.03, "Public Health Emergency Management within the DoD," March 28, 2019

This memorandum applies to all DoD uniformed and civilian personnel and their sponsored family members not under the responsibility of a U.S. Chief of Mission.

Effective March 13, 2020, all DoD uniformed personnel, civilian personnel and family members traveling to, from, or through Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) Travel Health Notices Level 3 (COVID-19) designated locations, will stop movement for the next 60 days. This includes all forms of official travel, including Permanent Change of Station, Temporary Duty, and government-funded leave. For DoD uniformed personnel, this also includes personal leave and other non-official travel. DoD travelers should carefully plan travel to ensure their scheduled flights do not transit through or originate in Level 3 designated locations. Authorized Departures are delayed until appropriate transportation and reception procedures are in place for their intended route of travel as prescribed in this memorandum.

Effective March 13, 2020, and for the 60 days thereafter, concurrent official travel for family members of DoD uniformed personnel and civilian personnel is denied to CDC Travel Health Notices Level 2 (COVID-19) designated locations. Additionally, until the travel restrictions prescribed above are lifted, DoD civilian personnel hiring actions for positions in Level 2 and Level 3 designated locations are postponed for non-essential civilian personnel who have not yet begun travel.

Also effective March 13, 2020, DoD Components must determine whether official travel by DoD personnel to locations other than CDC Travel Health Notices Level 3 designated locations is mission essential and must defer non-mission essential travel. Mission-essential travel refers to work that must be performed to ensure the continued operations of mission-essential functions, as determined by the DoD Component.

Exceptions may be granted in writing to the guidance contained herein for compelling cases where the travel is: (1) determined to be mission essential; (2) necessary for humanitarian reasons; (3) warranted due to extreme hardship. Approval authority for these exceptions belongs to the Combatant Commander if the individual is assigned to a combatant command. The Secretary of the Military Department concerned and the Chief Management Officer in the case of Defense Field Activities and Field Agencies retain the authority for all other individuals. This



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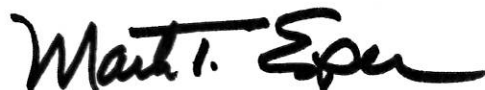
authority may be delegated in writing no lower than the first general or flag officer or member of the Senior Executive Service in the traveler's chain of command or supervision. These exceptions are to be done on a case by case basis, shall be limited in number, and shall be coordinated between the gaining and losing organizations. Individuals pending retirement or separation within the next 60 days are exempt. Individuals traveling under an exception or exemption, including those traveling as part of a Department of State-issued Authorized Departure, are subject to travel screening protocols as provided in reference (a).

These actions give preeminence to the safety and security of our personnel and their families. During the next 60 days, the Department will take several measures to enhance traveler safety. Each of your organizations, as applicable, shall take immediate action to:

- Establish pre- and post- travel screening and reception procedures for all travelers as provided in reference (a), to include providing members or civilian employees information regarding prescribed actions for them and their family members given their particular circumstances;
- Establish a means of communication with all personnel throughout the reception process until they are allowed to resume their normal duties;
- Transition to military or DoD contracted aircraft for DoD sponsored travelers coming from or going to CDC Level 3 or Level 2 designated areas, to the greatest extent practical; and
- Inform all travelers of their responsibility to contact their gaining organization in advance of travel and to keep the organization updated on their travel itinerary.

Refer to the latest Force Health Protection Supplement for all areas not specifically addressed by this guidance (<https://www.defense.gov/Explore/Spotlight/Coronavirus/>).

Our understanding of COVID-19 is rapidly evolving, and this guidance will be continuously evaluated as conditions warrant. Component heads should ensure this guidance is clearly communicated to those affected by these changes to travel policy.

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Mark T. Esper". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style with a prominent "M" and "E".

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