



DEPARTMENT OF THE AIR FORCE
502D AIR BASE WING
JOINT BASE SAN ANTONIO



1 March 2021

MEMORANDUM FOR ALL SUBORDINATE COMMANDS AND JBSA TENANT UNITS

SUBJECT: JBSA COVID-19 Guidance Memorandum #50– Implementation HPCON Bravo+ and Categorical Exceptions to Guidance on Use of Masks

1. The installation transitioned to Health Protection Condition (HPCON) BRAVO PLUS effective 1 March 2021. The intent of this change is to balance expanding installation access and services while continuing to emphasize public health precautions.
2. At this time, JBSA reported decreases in the daily case rate and in the 14-day positivity rate at our Military Medical Treatment Facilities (MTF). In addition, our Military MTFs have sufficient capacity to diagnose and treat COVID-19 patients. Our current trends meet the Department of Defense criteria for implementing this HPCON change. Additionally, we reviewed the Bexar County Hospital Stress Score.
3. All DOD-affiliated cardholders now have access to the installation and have the ability to vouch for the occupants in their vehicle. Visitor pass procedures will be in effect, and commander sponsorship will not be required.
4. Installation support and services will be expanded in a deliberate manner with public health measures in place to minimize spread.
 - Installation gate availability and hours: Changes to gate openings and hours will be based on increased demand and observed traffic patterns. Please visit here for current hours: <https://www.jbsa.mil/Gate-Hours/> and we request your patience while driving on and off installation.
 - Morale, Welfare and Recreation opportunities: Please visit www.JBSAToday.com
 - Expanded listing of services available: Please visit www.jbsa.mil/coronavirus. Under the Facilities and Services Statuses, there is more detailed information.
 - For timely and general COVID updates, please follow us on Facebook at <https://www.facebook.com/JointBaseSanAntonio/>.
5. We must minimize the potential for re-spreading this virus to avoid reversing the trends and gains we have made. Because Bexar County is no longer in a high risk category as determined by positivity rates and COVID-19 cases per 100,000 personnel, JBSA will no longer be Mission Essential and Mission Critical personnel only. However, workplaces are to have no more than 50% of the workforce in the workplace at a given point in time. Commanders and supervisors are authorized to have more than 50% of their personnel in the workplace if necessary to accomplish the unit's mission. Commanders and supervisors are encouraged to continue teleworking and adjusting work shifts for personnel and to continue to accommodate high-risk members and

those with family considerations. I am aware of OMB Memorandum M-21-15, dated 24 January 2021, which states federal workplaces should be at a 25% occupancy level during periods of significant or high community transmission, however I do not find that requirement to be applicable at this time because we are not in a period of significant or high community transmission based on state and local data. We all must do our part to implement public health recommendations, to include: physical distancing, wearing face masks, practicing good hand washing protocols, and taking appropriate actions if feeling sick. Personnel are encouraged to get the COVID-19 vaccine when your Phase is available, if you choose to be vaccinated.

6. Personnel hosting or attending social gatherings off base should follow city and county restrictions on the size of gatherings. Gatherings for official unit functions (including, but not limited to, retirement ceremonies, changes of command, commander's calls, etc.), events on base sponsored by the 502d Force Support Squadron (and similar morale, welfare, and recreation events), and social events held at a base facility (club, park, golf course, etc.) should not exceed 50% of the building, room, and/or pavilion occupancy. Social gatherings in housing areas on base will be limited to 10 or fewer people.

7. In addition to identified Department of Defense exceptions for mask wear, the DAF-wide exceptions as stated in the 16 February 2021 Department of the Air Force Guidance on Use of Masks are as follows:

- when necessary to reasonably accommodate a religious belief;
- when underlying health conditions that prohibit the wear of a face covering exist and the individual is in possession of medical documentation from a health care provider outlining such a condition and the restrictions the condition places on wear of a face covering;
- when outdoors and proper physical distancing can be maintained;
- when actively participating in physical fitness activities, either indoors or outdoors, and either proper physical distancing is maintained or additional measures are implemented to mitigate the threat of transmission;
- when an individual is alone in a vehicle or is sharing the vehicle only with members of their household;
- when use substantively interferes with the proper wear and use of personal protective equipment necessary for the accomplishment of one's military duties;
- when personnel are in primary aircrew positions during critical phases of flight or emergencies, or when using flight crew oxygen equipment;
- when clear or unrestricted visualization of verbal communication are essential to safe and effective operations.

As the Installation Commander for Joint Base San Antonio, I also authorize the following categorical exceptions to the mask policy as permitted by the DAF guidance memo:

- A person who is speaking to an audience of 30 or more as long as the speaker maintains appropriate physical distancing from the audience;
- Single person alone in an office with the door opened or closed;

- Children aged 2-5 under care in the Child Development Center and Family Child Care homes;
 - Facilities that manage reservations for the space limiting it to single family use (e.g., Parent/Child Area at fitness center, within lodging room assigned to an Airman or an Airman's family, etc.).
8. Working with Public Health experts and our community partners, we will exercise caution while delivering JBSA services and support with safety at the forefront.
9. This letter supersedes any previous letters, same subject.

CAROLINE M. MILLER
Brigadier General, USAF
Commander