

Teammates,

Due to a steady upward trend in COVID-19 positives across the installation and greater Colorado Springs area, I have decided to increase our COVID-19 posture. This was a difficult decision; however, your safety remains a top priority.

The USAFA positivity rate is approximately 1%. This represents a two-to-three fold increase in our COVID positivity over the last couple of months. Even though we remain statistically safer than downtown Colorado Springs (currently 6-7%), we know that it is harder to socially distance in our dormitory environment. We take this increase in positivity seriously, and we must take proactive measures to curve our growth at home.

Starting on **Monday, 2 November, the installation will return to reopening status Phase II-a, under HPCON-Bravo**. Teleworking, zoning workplaces, and teaming (Blue & Silver) has and will continue to be incredibly important. One element of significant change is the limitation of non-official social gatherings to ten or less people. We will continue to look for ways to do things smarter and safer than we have ever done them before. (Reference: [USAFA Reopening Guide](#)) I recognize the mental toll that these kinds of restrictions take on all of us. I need your help. We are a family, and we need to look out for one another.

As we look ahead to Winter Break, our goal is to ensure that all cadets are able to depart the installation after final exams, if desired. Any cadets who have tested positive for COVID-19 will be unable to travel. The increased COVID-19 posture is not limited to the cadet wing, but applies to the installation at large.

To defeat an outbreak of COVID-19, we need to identify those with the disease and take actions. Throughout the remainder of the semester, we will continue with our surveillance testing. I am confident that the efforts of our Medical Group and Pandemic Math Team have allowed us to keep our positive rates well within our Q&I capabilities.

You play a key role in keeping rates low as well. That is why I am relying on ALL of you to adhere to the guidelines below to prevent transmission to others and ensure OUR mission continues:

- Stay home if you are not feeling well or have a sick family member.
- If you are displaying COVID-19 symptoms, seek care immediately.
- Wear a mask when within 6 feet of another person.
- Socially distance and avoid close contact (within 6ft) for extended periods of time (15 minutes).
- Wash your hands frequently with soap and water.
- Avoid sharing personal items.
- Frequently clean surfaces that have been touched.
- Share information with public health specialists during contact tracing. This process helps track and slow the spread of the virus.
- Conduct only mission essential activities.

Below is a breakdown of the activities within the Mission Elements. More detailed communication from your ME leadership is forthcoming.

CADET WING

Starting **Friday, 30 October, CW will transition to Phase 3**, with a focus on completing only mission-essential functions in order to promote the overall health and safety of the wing. Cadets will remain on the USAFA installation and will be permitted to leave base for necessities only (pick up take-out food, go to the grocery store, shop for personal necessities). These passes will be approved by squadron AOCs for a limited duration to accomplish the approved task. Overnight passes will be via ETP only (Commandant approval).

Non-mission essential activities will be curtailed immediately to limit unnecessary interaction. Activities such as clubs will transition to virtual only; the CFC will remain open with reduced capacity; SAMIs, AMIs, PAIs, NMF, and Intramurals are temporarily suspended.

For this weekend's events specifically:

- Cadet attendance for the football game will be voluntary (more details to follow via NOTAM)
- No SAMI
- Squadron meal events on Saturday will continue, with very specific mitigation guidelines

ACADEMICS

Starting **Monday, 2 November**, DF will move to 75% remote classes, (your faculty will inform you whether your in-person class has moved to remote). All academics clubs and teams will transition to 100% virtual meetings and practices, and there will be a reduction of faculty and staff to mission essential.

ATHLETICS

Through the weekend, AD will maintain a Mission Essential Interactions Phase 2a posture. Mask wear in the CFC is mandatory and a maximum of 100 personnel can utilize the facility at one time.

Starting **Monday, 2 November**, AD will transition to Mission Essential Interactions (Phase 2b) in accordance with the AD COVID Phases/Conditions. Mask wear in the CFC will be mandatory and a maximum of 50 personnel can utilize the facility at one time.

306 FTG

Starting **Friday, 30 October**, the 306 FTG will pause all basic Airmanship courses, while continuing limited mission essential upgrade training.

Team, we will get through this together! If rates increase, it will have an adverse impact on getting through finals and winter break, and we have to get through both of them. We can and will defeat this invisible adversary!

VR Rich Clark

RICHARD M. CLARK, Lt Gen, USAF
Superintendent, USAFA