



PERSONNEL AND  
READINESS

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MEMORANDUM FOR SECRETARIES OF THE MILITARY DEPARTMENTS  
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UNDER SECRETARIES OF DEFENSE  
CHIEF OF THE NATIONAL GUARD BUREAU  
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SUBJECT: Force Health Protection Guidance (Supplement 1) - Department of Defense  
Guidance for Monitoring Personnel Returning from China During the Novel  
Coronavirus Outbreak

The World Health Organization declared a Public Health Emergency of International Concern for the 2019 novel coronavirus (2019-nCoV) outbreak on January 30, 2020. On January 31, 2020, the Secretary of Health and Human Services declared a Public Health Emergency in the United States and announced new measures to prevent the spread of 2019-nCoV. The current epidemic in mainland China has demonstrated the capacity of the 2019-nCoV to spread globally.

The DoD must immediately take measures to prevent the spread of this disease within our population and communities. In keeping with Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) recommendations, this memorandum provides guidance pertaining to Service members, DoD civilian employees and contractor personnel, and family members returning from China to protect public health, and will be updated as necessary.

Effective immediately, DoD Components must identify all **Service members** returning from mainland China after February 2, 2020, and place the Service member under a 14-day restriction of movement (ROM). During the 14-day ROM:

- Service members will be restricted to their residence for a 14-day ROM period, starting from the day of departure from mainland China.
- Service members will be assessed by cognizant medical staff (by phone consultation or in person), as soon as possible within the first 24 hours of arrival to home station or their final destination, for the development of fever or symptoms of 2019-nCoV.
- For all in-person assessments of Service members (including asymptomatic Service members), medical personnel should wear appropriate personal protective equipment (PPE) (e.g., facemask, eye protection, gloves).
- Service members living in open-bay settings, or rooms with shared bathrooms and/or kitchens facilities, will be placed in separate lodging to span the 14-day ROM period.

The DoD Component to which the Service member is assigned will arrange for the separate lodging.

- Service members will be assessed daily for fever and symptoms by cognizant medical staff (by phone consultation or in person). For all in-person assessments of Service members (including an asymptomatic Service member) medical personnel should wear appropriate PPE (e.g., facemask, eye protection, gloves).
- Service members will separate themselves from other people in the home/dwelling if residing with roommates/family members and avoid sharing personal items, to the extent possible pursuant to DoD Component guidance.
- Service members may not travel, visit public/crowded areas, or use public transportation and should avoid interaction with pets or other animals, to the extent possible.
- Medical evaluation and care will be immediately arranged if the Service member displays fever and symptoms consistent with 2019-nCoV, as per CDC guidance.
  - The Service member will call ahead before going to a medical treatment facility, informing them of his/her symptoms and travel history.
  - Medical staff should follow CDC guidance when assessing individuals displaying fever and symptoms consistent with 2019-nCoV.
  - If an individual is identified as a patient under investigation, per previously published Under Secretary of Defense for Personnel and Readiness guidance “Force Health Protection Guidance for the Novel Coronavirus Outbreak,” dated January 30, 2020, appropriate reporting will be initiated.

Until further notice, DoD recommends that **DoD civilian employees and contractor personnel, and family members** returning from China follow existing CDC guidance. Key aspects include voluntarily: remaining at home, avoiding congregate settings, limiting close contact with people and pets or other animals to the extent possible, not traveling, self-monitoring, and seeking medical care if symptoms develop.

The DoD will continue to follow the CDC guidance and comply with local public health authorities during this outbreak. The most updated guidance from the CDC should be checked daily and can be found at: <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/index.html>.

My point of contact for this guidance is COL Jennifer M. Kishimori, who may be reached at (703) 681-8179 or [jennifer.m.kishimori.mil@mail.mil](mailto:jennifer.m.kishimori.mil@mail.mil).



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