



# DEPARTMENT OF THE AIR FORCE

UNITED STATES SPACE FORCE  
PETERSON-SCHRIEVER GARRISON

1 March 2021

MEMORANDUM FOR ALL SUBORDINATE COMMANDS AND TENANT UNITS

FROM: P-S GAR/CC  
775 Loring Avenue, Suite 205  
Peterson AFB CO 80914-1290

SUBJECT: Public Health Directive #5

1. As the COVID-19 pandemic evolves, we must continue to adapt installation policies and preventative actions. The crisis is constantly transforming, and our posture must also adjust to appropriately balance protecting base personnel while ensuring continued mission effectiveness. Due to the sustained decrease in cases and positive test percentages, in addition to new SECDEF and SECAF level guidance, the following changes will be effective as of 1 March 2021:

## **a. Adjustments to the Workforce:**

(1) Consistent with State guidance, commanders and mission partner leads will implement an in-person work schedule not to exceed 50% of the workforce at any given time. The use of rotating shifts and/or telework will be utilized to the maximum extent possible. Commanders and mission partners *with specific, defined mission needs* are authorized to exceed the 50% threshold, so long as CDC physical distancing guidelines can be followed, or after consultation with the 21 MDG if CDC physical distancing guidelines cannot be followed. The point of contact for these issues is the Alternate Public Health Emergency Officer (PHEO) Lt Col Ian Wiechert, who can be reached at [ian.p.wiechert.mil@mail.mil](mailto:ian.p.wiechert.mil@mail.mil) or 719-556-1009. Secondarily, the PHEO, Maj Timberlake, can be reached at [william.t.timberlake2.mil@mail.mil](mailto:william.t.timberlake2.mil@mail.mil) or 719-322-4258.

(2) High-risk personnel are strongly encouraged to maximize telework. However, high-risk personnel may be reintegrated into the workplace in a limited posture when CDC physical distancing guidelines and mask utilization requirements can be followed. Supervisors should attempt to make reasonable accommodations for personnel with individualized needs or concerns.

(3) All personnel will assess their health before leaving their residence. Personnel must proactively self-identify to their leadership if they or any member of their household are experiencing any symptoms of COVID-19 or other illness. If they or any member of their household are experiencing such symptoms, employees must remain at home and not enter the workspace. Those who experience a fever shall not return to their work center until they have been fever-free, absent medication, for 72 hours and are no longer experiencing symptoms.

## **b. Base Access and Entry Procedures:**

(1) Security Forces (SF) personnel will continue to utilize personal protective equipment, including face coverings, and normally refrain from physically handling identification cards for personnel accessing the base. There may be times where SF will request to physically handle identification cards.

(2) When entering P-S GAR installations in Colorado, all personnel are required to lower windows and present identification for scanning. If wearing a face covering, personnel will be asked by SF to briefly lower the covering to verify identity.

**c. Controlled, Restricted Areas and Operations Centers:**

(1) Commanders at all levels must continue to take action to protect operations centers and operations crews. Specific policies and procedures for an operations center will be defined by the commander responsible for executing the mission within those operations centers.

(2) Access to restricted areas will be granted to mission essential visitors on a case-by-case basis. At Schriever Air Force Base, Missile Defense Agency mission essential visitors will continue to enter the Restricted Area at the West Portal after their Temporary or Visitor badge has been approved.

(3) Access to Controlled and Restricted Areas will continue to be prohibited for all symptomatic personnel.

(4) Tours remain prohibited in Controlled and Restricted Areas without a specific mission need, and require P-S GAR/CC, Space Delta/CC, or appropriate mission partner lead approval.

**d. Physical Distancing and Gatherings:**

(1) Consistent with CDC guidance, all personnel will continue to practice physical distancing on and off duty. Operations crews, teams, and mission essential personnel must use extra caution to avoid close-contact environments, both on and off duty.

(2) Unofficial Gatherings: On all P-S GAR installations in Colorado, the number of participants in informal or unofficial gatherings (e.g. potlucks, baby showers, gatherings of friends and family) will be limited to no more than 10 personnel, while still practicing physical distancing and the wear of cloth face coverings. All personnel are encouraged to review and follow the state of Colorado guidelines and limit informal gatherings to no more than 10 individuals, regardless of location.

(3) Required Meetings: Physical distancing practices will be followed when holding *required* meetings or gatherings within the workplace, to include mask wear, sanitization and hygiene protocols. Meeting attendance shall be limited by venue size in accordance with CDC guidance.

(4) Official Gatherings: Commanders and mission partner leads are granted authority to approve gatherings (other than regularly scheduled, required meetings) by members of their units. However, an assessment of benefits and associated risks will be conducted when planning gatherings of personnel on any P-S GAR Installation. *Prior to approval, commanders and leads are highly encouraged to consider the defensibility/mission criticality of an event should positive cases trace back to the gathering.*

(a) Face coverings, sanitization, distancing, and hygiene protocols will be followed throughout the duration of any official gathering. Commanders and leads should consider the impact of food service or other aspects of an event that may drive participants to relax adherence to these protocols.

(b) Official gatherings held indoors will not exceed 150 personnel. Indoor events should include formalized processes (such as assigned seating) to assist with contact tracing (should it become necessary) and reduce the number of interactions for potential exposures.

(c) Official gatherings held outdoors will not exceed 250 personnel. Outdoor events will still need to take into consideration the capacity limitations to allow for 6 feet of distancing between parties.

(5) 21 MDG Public Health will be consulted before conducting any gathering/event forecast to exceed 50 total attendees. The 21 MDG PHEO will provide recommendations pertaining to gathering/event approval and risk mitigation. 21 MDG Public Health also has authority to approve deviations to the gathering guidance above, if required. The primary point of contact for these issues is Lt Col Ian Wiechert, Alternate PHEO and Public Health OIC, [ian.p.wiechert.mil@mail.mil](mailto:ian.p.wiechert.mil@mail.mil) or 719-556-1009.

(6) The 21 MDG PHEO will track events exceeding 50 total attendees occurring on P-S GAR Installations and advise the P-S GAR/CC if there is an increased COVID-19 risk that would drive further restrictions on meetings/gatherings/events.

**e. Wear of Face Coverings:**

(1) In accordance with the Secretary of Defense Memorandum, "Use of Masks and Other Public Health Measures," dated 04 Feb 2021, and the Secretary of the Air Force Memorandum "Department of the Air Force Guidance on Use of Masks," dated 16 February 2021, all individuals on any P-S GAR Colorado installation will continuously wear a mask that covers the nose and mouth and that comports with all current guidance from the CDC and the Occupational Safety and Health Administration, subject to the following exceptions;

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

(b) When eating or drinking, while maintaining distancing IAW CDC guidelines;

(c) When required to be lowered for identification or security purposes;

(d) When necessary to reasonably accommodate a religious belief;

(e) When underlying health or medical conditions exist that prohibit the wear of a face covering, 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 the wear of a face covering;

(f) When outdoors and proper physical distancing can be maintained;

(g) 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;

(h) When an individual is alone in a vehicle, or is sharing the vehicle with only members of their immediate household;

(i) When the wear of the face covering substantively interferes with the proper wear and use of personal protective equipment necessary for the accomplishment of one's military duties;

(j) When personnel are in primary aircrew positions during critical phases of flight or emergencies; or when using flight crew oxygen equipment;

(k) When clear or unrestricted visualization of verbal communication are essential to safe and effective operations

(2) The authority to grant exemptions, exceptions, or other variations to the above policies regarding face coverings is limited to circumstances in which the implementation of the same will significantly impede mission accomplishment. This authority is vested at a level no lower than a general/flag officer in the grade of O-7, a Senior Executive Service member (or equivalent), or the P-S GAR/CC.

(3) This guidance applies to all Total Force Military Personnel, DoD Civilian Employees (including Non-Appropriated Funded Civilians), Family Members, DoD Contractors, and all other individuals on DoD property, installations, and facilities.

#### **f. Dining Facilities:**

(1) Limited sit-down dining is authorized with physical distancing measures; take-out containers and utensils will continue to be utilized to the greatest degree possible. Dining Facilities will continue to implement mitigation measures such as no salad bar, wrapping individual food items, and limiting contact during payment and checkout.

(2) Extra-large dining facilities and food service areas including but not limited to the Peterson Air Force Base HUB's ballroom, dining room, open-wall reception lounge and Colorado Pizza, as well as the DFAC, are specifically limited to 150 personnel per room with space calculator (<https://covid19.colorado.gov/distancing-calculator>). Capacity in other dining facilities and food service areas will be limited to no more than 50% of capacity or 50 personnel per room, whichever is less.

#### **g. P-S GAR Facilities and Services:**

(1) Availability of on-base service activities will be adjusted based upon constraints such as available workforce. To the greatest degree possible, on-base service activities will follow all relevant local, state, and federal public health guidance. A separate document will be maintained and published to capture the real-time status of service activities across P-S GAR bases in Colorado.

(2) Unit PT and limited intramural sports (such as softball or other activities that allow for appropriate distancing) may resume in limited capacities with appropriate safeguards in place. There may be a maximum of 25 members for indoor unit PT sessions or intramural events and a maximum of 50 members for outdoor unit PT sessions or intramural events. Masks will be worn for the entirety of the event unless criteria for e.1.f or e.1.g above can be met and maintained.

(3) Shuttle bus services at Schriever Air Force Base will continue operations between the hours of 0530 and 1800, Monday through Friday. The Cheyenne Mountain Air Force Station shuttle bus service will maintain operations 7 days a week. Buses will have staggered seating and protective measures around the driver's compartment. Riders are required to wear face coverings.

2. This guidance supersedes the following:

*Peterson-Schriever Garrison Public Health Directive #1, dtd 11 August 20*

*Peterson-Schriever Garrison Public Health Directive #2, dtd 5 Nov 20*

*Peterson-Schriever Garrison Public Health Directive #3, dtd 25 Nov 20*

*Peterson-Schriever Garrison Public Health Directive #4, dtd 21 Jan 21*

3. In the absence of specific direction outlined above, 21 MSG/CC and 50 MSG/CC are authorized to implement lesser actions in order to balance risk to physical and mental health, risk to operations, and risk to mission sustainment at Peterson Air Force Base, Cheyenne Mountain Air Force Station and Schriever Air Force Base, respectively. The PHEO remains delegated the authority to order medical quarantine within the meaning of Article 84, Uniform Code of Military Justice (UCMJ). Failure to adhere to this directive may constitute a violation of Articles 90, 91, or 92, UCMJ.

4. Through a balanced, measured approach we will continue to defeat this enemy and preserve the long-term health of our teams and operations. As the installation host, P-S GAR will continue to monitor and assess the situation and adjust directives and guidance as necessary.

JAMES E. SMITH, Colonel, USAF  
Commander