



DEPARTMENT OF THE NAVY

JOINT REGION MARIANAS
PSC 455 BOX 211
FPO AP 96540-1000

6200
Ser J00J/034
06 SEP 2022

From: Commander, Joint Region Marianas

To: Joint Region Marianas Installation Commanding Officers

Subj: JOINT REGION MARIANAS PUBLIC HEALTH ORDER-DECISION TO MAINTAIN
HPCON ALPHA WITH ADDITIONAL FORCE HEALTH PROTECTION MEASURE-
MANDATORY MASK WEAR WITHIN MILITARY TREATMENT FACILITIES

Ref: (a) Under Secretary of Defense Memorandum, "Consolidated Department of Defense
Coronavirus Disease 2019 Force Health Protection Guidance- Revision 3," August 29, 2022
(b) DoDI 6200.03, Public Health Emergency Management (PHEM) Within the DoD, March
28, 2019
(c) COMNAVMARIANAS GU 110930Z MAY 22
(d) Governor of Guam Executive Order 2022-21, August 8, 2022

1. Order. Effective immediately, in compliance with paragraph 5.3.e. of reference (a), Commander Joint Region Marianas (CJRM) hereby orders that all personnel wear a mask when inside a military treatment facility (MTF). Mask wearing in other Department of Defense (DoD) facilities are at the discretion of the individual.
2. Background. JRM, U.S. Naval Hospital (USNH) Guam and the Government of Guam continue to respond to the Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19) Pandemic. Per references (b) and (c), JRM and its subordinate installations have been in Health Protection Condition (HPCON) ALPHA since May 12, 2022. On August 29, 2022, the Undersecretary of Defense for Personnel & Readiness (USD P&R) issued reference (a). It mandates that DoD installations base their HPCON levels on the Center for Disease Control (CDC) COVID-19 Community Level for the county in which the installation is located, unless compelling rationale to maintain HPCON level exists. Normally, HPCON Levels ALPHA, BRAVO, and CHARLIE correspond directly to Community Levels of "LOW," "MEDIUM," and "HIGH." On September 1, 2022, CDC reported Guam County's COVID-19 Community Level to be "MEDIUM." In response to increased cases of COVID-19 on-island, Guam's Governor issued reference (d) mandating everyone to wear masks and maintain physical distancing within Guam healthcare facilities. The most recent DoD Community Level in Guam is "LOW."
3. Authorization to Maintain HPCON ALPHA. The COVID-19 transmission rate within the region's DoD community remains low and is unlikely to increase given local and DoD vaccination rates. In light of this, the decreasing number of COVID-19 cases on-island, and after consultation with the Governor of Guam and our Public Health Emergency Officer (PHEO), I find compelling rationale exists for JRM DoD installations to maintain HPCON-ALPHA. Though elevation to HPCON-BRAVO is not warranted at this time, both references (a) and (d) direct that all personnel within MTF's and Guam healthcare facilities wear masks. JRM's most vulnerable populations, the elderly and ill, remain susceptible to the life-threatening risks of COVID-19 infection. USNH Guam staff also remain vulnerable to infection from both symptomatic and asymptomatic patients and hospital visitors.

Subj: JOINT REGION MARIANAS PUBLIC HEALTH ORDER- HPCON BRAVO

In order to protect these medically vulnerable populations, the additional FHP measure of mandatory mask wear within MTF's is justified and thereby duly ordered.

4. Factors to elevate to HPCON-BRAVO. Installation commanding officers (ICO's) shall posture their installations to elevate to HPCON-BRAVO status on short notice in consideration of the following specific factors: 1) Rising COVID-19 positive cases within the local civilian and military populations; 2) an increase in COVID-19 hospitalizations at civilian healthcare facilities (CHF) or MTFs; 3) an increase in Intensive Care Unit (ICU) hospitalizations at CHFs or MTFs; 4) an increase in COVID-19 fatalities; and 5) reports of DoD-affiliated personnel not executing personal responsibility measures needed to limit COVID-19 transmission. ICO's shall notify CJRM before any HPCON changes.

5. Personal Responsibility and Compliance. JRM remains in a public health emergency due to the COVID-19 pandemic. COVID-19 continues to pose a significant threat to public health and mission readiness across JRM's area of operations. Service members, civilian employees, contractors, veterans, and their respective dependents must continue to practice personal responsibility and engage in sound public health practices to defeat this disease, or the threat will persist and continue to disrupt our lives and operational readiness. All DoD-affiliated personnel onboard Guam are advised to continue to monitor and follow JRM, Andersen Air Force Base, and U.S. Naval Base Guam on command social media platforms for information and updates.

6. Point of Contact. My point of contact for this matter is CAPT Rick Kratzer, USN, JRM Chief of Staff. His phone number is (671) 349-3201 and his electronic mail is gadala.kratzer@fe.navy.mil.



B. R. NICHOLSON