



MISAWA AIR BASE COVID-19 GUIDANCE

EFFECTIVE DATE: 12 January 2023



NOTICE: Commanders will implement the below procedures effective as of the above date. Subordinate or tenant commands may make more restrictive guidance but not less restrictive. These restrictions apply to all personnel present on, or assigned to Misawa AB, including but not limited to: US military personnel, US civilian employees, all dependents, DOD retirees, host-nation employees, contractors, and any other persons accessing Misawa AB (Misawa Members). Any military member who fails to comply with this directive may be subject to punishment under the Uniform Code of Military Justice (UCMJ). Those not subject to the UCMJ may be subject to other administrative actions.

SITUATION: Misawa AB has taken measures to protect members of our installation and community through directives and proactive measures to prevent COVID-19 transmission.

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Misawa Air Base COVID webpage:

<https://www.misawa.af.mil/COVID-19-Information/>

Yokota Air Base (Tokyo) COVID webpage:

<https://www.yokota.af.mil/COVID-19/>

CDC COVID webpage:

<https://www.cdc.gov/COVID-19/2019-nCoV/index.html/>

DoD Latest Guidance:

<https://www.defense.gov/Explore/Spotlight/Coronavirus/Latest-DOD-Guidance/>

Government of Japan Travel Regulations:

<https://www.mhlw.go.jp/stf/covid-19/bordercontrol.html>



| TEAM | CONTACT INFORMATION | I HAVE A QUESTION ABOUT... |
|------------------------------------|---|---|
| 35 th MDG Public Health | DSN 315-226-6116/ Commercial: 0176-77-6116 | 35 FW COVID-19 policies & guidance COVID Testing & Results Release from Isolation |

DEFINITIONS

1. **Fully Vaccinated:** An individual who completed primary COVID-19 vaccine series (one dose for Janssen).
2. **'Up to date' on COVID-19 vaccination:** if you have completed a COVID-19 vaccine primary series and received the most recent booster dose recommended for you by CDC.
3. **Recovered COVID-19 Positive Members (Post Isolation):** Those who have recovered from COVID-19 after a positive test within 90 days and completed their prescribed isolation.
4. **Restriction of Movement (ROM):** Limiting movement of an individual or group to prevent or minimize the transmission of a communicable disease, including isolation; quarantine; and conditional release (DoDI 6200.03)
5. **Social distancing:** Service members restricted to residence or other appropriate domicile, limit close contact with others, separate from others in the home, avoid sharing personal items, avoid interaction with pets or other animals. Do not travel, visit public or crowded areas, or use public transportation (OSD).
6. **Isolation in residence:** Maintaining social distance posture at home, using a separate bedroom and avoiding commune area. Use separate bathroom if able, but if a single-bathroom housing, leave the bathroom fan on for 30 minutes and wipe down all contact surfaces between the use.
7. **Close Contacts:** Someone who was less than 6 feet away from an infected person for a cumulative total of 15 minutes or more over a 24-hour period. The day of exposure is day 0. Infectious period is within 48 hours prior to the symptom onset of the positive person, or within 48 hours prior to the positive test result for asymptomatic person.

MASK WEARING

1. Mask use and wearing.
 - a. On base:
 - (1) Required in DoD health care facilities and veterinarian clinic in accordance with DoD and DHA guidance.
 - (2) Not required in buses, vans, or cars that remain on USFJ installations or travel between USFJ installations
 - (3) Individuals may choose to wear masks on base at their discretion
 - b. Off base:
 - (1) All personnel are required to wear masks indoors regardless of vaccination status.
 - (2) Pre-elementary (age 6 and below) children are not required to wear a mask (indoor or outdoor)
 - (3) Members may remove their masks outdoors if they can maintain social distancing (6ft) measures.
 - (4) Family members and people who regularly interact with each other may be within the (6ft) social distance without a mask outdoors.

OFF BASE PROCEDURES

1. Members will follow host nation and local community policies and practices.
 - a. See above for mask wearing policies
2. Misawa members are authorized to use commercial public transportation throughout Japan.
 - a. All airport and train stations are authorized for use with the stipulation that members will leave the restricted area as quickly as possible via connecting flight, POV, train, or rental vehicle.
 - b. If arriving at the commercial airport, and tested positive on arrival, follow GOJ guidance for transportation and lodging.
3. Members traveling to other U.S. installations must adhere to all COVID-19 policies of that installation or Misawa AB directives.

LEAVE AND TRAVEL PROCEDURES

1. **Official Travel:** Individuals will follow policies and the regulations of the member's local leadership and the travel destinations. This applies to uniformed personnel, DoD Civilian employees, and contractor personnel (if DoD-funded travel).
2. **Traveling into Japan (Commercial and MILAIR/Patriot Express):**
 - a. There is no testing requirement for passengers who received at least 1 booster dose of any COVID-19 vaccine.
 - b. Children age 6 and under may assume the vaccination status of the *least* vaccinated parent present.
 - c. For all other passengers: Testing is required within 3 days prior to departure. Members will maintain proof of the

negative test during travel. ETP for pre-departure testing exemption is no longer available, all travelers including SOFA members will follow GOJ policy for the entry into Japan.

- d. **Patriot Express Breakdowns:** Travelers transiting Japan on MILAIR/PE flights who make temporary or unexpected stop due to maintenance or weather are exempt from arrival testing requirements, as long as they remain on installation.
- e. Travelers who have recovered from COVID-19 infection within the past 90 days are required to present following documentations:
 - (1) Documentation of positive test result, must state "Positive," "SARS-CoV-2 RNA Detected," "SARS-CoV-2 Antigen Detected," or "COVID-19 Detected."
 - (2) Signed letter on official letterhead containing name address, and phone number of licensed healthcare provider stating passenger is cleared for travel.
 - (3) Documentation and letter personal identifiers (name, birth date) must match other travel documents
 - (4) Travelers within 10 days of a positive COVID-19 test will need a letter of recovery as well as mission essential verification through the first O-6 in the member's command chain. Travel between days 6 and 10 of COVID infection may only be done on MILAIR/PE and not through commercial air travel.
 - (5) GOJ has agreed to accept the travel clearance letter from their healthcare provider, however, the traveler may still be subject to the arrival testing if they had not received at least one booster.
- f. **Commercial Travel (additional):**
 - (1) Travelers who have received at least one shot of booster will not require entry testing. These travelers may proceed through the "Blue" line at the commercial airports and continue their travel as normal.
 - (2) All others (those who did not receive a booster shot) must receive a negative molecular (i.e. RT-PCR, LAMP, TMA, NEAR) COVID-19 pre-departure test within 72 hours prior to boarding plane. For those within 90 days of positive COVID-19 test result, GOJ has agreed to accept the travel clearance letter, however, the traveler may still be subject to the arrival testing if they had not received at least one booster.
- g. When scheduling connecting flights, members should allow a **5-hour** gap between arrival and departing flights to allow for completion of COVID processing through customs and immigration.

3. **Traveling outside of Japan**

- a. Travel to the United States does not require a pre-departure test.
- b. Travelers to destination other than the US must review destination ROM and testing requirements prior to travel.
- c. If pre-departure testing is required, travelers should contact their PCM.
- d. Service members must remain in contact with their losing commands and MPFs. Members must immediately inform losing commanders of any deviations in travel due to COVID-19.

INSTRUCTIONS AFTER TESTING POSITIVE

- 1. Once notified of a positive test result, individuals will immediately start isolation in residence and notify those who may have been exposed to COVID-19. (Close contact) Active duty members need to notify your unit supervisor or health monitor.
- 2. All positive persons need to self-isolate in residence for a total of 5 days. Individuals who do not have at least one booster are required an additional 2 days of installation ROM.
 - a. If you never had any symptoms, isolation ends at the midnight of the 5th day (day 0 is the date of positive test).
 - b. All positive members will wear mask and maintain social distance for a total of 10 days. Public transportation is prohibited during this time.
 - c. If symptomatic, the infected individuals must have remained fever-free within 24 hours of isolation completion, has not developed any new or worsening symptoms, and any remaining symptoms must be improving prior to release from the isolation (5 days total). If these criteria are not met after day 5, restriction to residence will be extended until criteria are met or until a full ten (10) days have elapsed since start of symptoms (or positive test result, if asymptomatic upon diagnosis) Positive members will isolate in their own domicile.
- 3. There are no requirements for a negative COVID-19 test to be documented prior to being released from isolation following a positive test.
- 4. COVID-19 positive members will isolate in their own domicile under the following conditions:

- a. Isolated individual can maintain effective social distancing with other household members through use of a separate bedroom and bathroom, avoiding use of shared spaces, and a mask is worn if member must step out of isolation room.
 - b. If a separate bathroom is not available, bathroom should remain unoccupied with fan on for at least 30 minutes and all contact surfaces cleaned between uses.
 - c. Children should not be allowed to participate in school travel or sports for 10 days after family member diagnosis.
 - d. Positive members will remain in their domicile and will have no physical contact with members not in isolation, unless for urgent medical care.
5. All travelers in isolation status leaving or entering the Japan AOR must complete the applicable isolation prior to departure.
 - a. The use of public transportation, to include the Patriot Express, is not authorized for 10 days full days from the start of symptoms or positive COVID-19 test result, whichever occurred first.
 6. JSDF personnel, LN employees, and visitors to U.S. facilities and areas diagnosed with COVID-19 will be denied access to all U.S. facilities. These personnel will follow applicable GoJ guidance regarding isolation protocols. JSDF personnel who reside on a U.S. facility and area must remain either off the installation or in their quarters on the installation, e.g., dorm room, for the duration of their isolation.

CLOSE CONTACT PROCEDURES

1. All members identified as close contacts must wear a mask, maintain social distancing and avoid public transportation for 10 days.
 - a. **Those who received at least one booster or Recovered COVID-19 (within 90 days)**– ROM is not required if member remains asymptomatic, but the member will practice the additional safety measures including social distancing, mask wear at all times and avoiding public transportation for 10 days following the exposure. Members should take a home test at day 4 and 5 if practical, if the individual develops symptoms test earlier.
 - b. **All others: Those who have not had a booster**– Individuals will remain on installation ROM for a minimum of 5 days and obtain a COVID test on day 5 if practical, if the individual develops symptoms test earlier. If negative and asymptomatic after 5 days, personnel may be released from Installation ROM. The exposed person must practice social distancing, mask wear and avoiding public transportation for 10 days.
2. A cohabitant will remain on installation ROM depending on the vaccination status as listed above.
3. If a positive COVID-19 test result is received on day 5, the member will transition to isolation.

COVID TESTING AND RESULTS

1. COVID Testing Sites and Times
 - a. 35th MDG Tunnel is closed as of October 24th, all testing will be done in individual clinics or UCS (for symptomatic).
 - b. Off-base appointment testing: local hospitals terminated pre-appointment testing requirement. If somehow it is required for a particular appointment, the test will be performed on an appointment basis. Individuals that require testing will be notified by Friday prior to the off base appointment. A member can call Public Health at 226-6116 for confirmation.
2. COVID-19 Test results may be located by the member utilizing Tricare Online: <https://www.tricareonline.com/tol2/prelogin/desktopIndex.xhtml>
3. Home Self-Test Kit : distributed at the front desk of Beneficiary Care Clinic, Optometry, Dental, Flight Medicine(Navy Medicine)
 - a. Per the manufacturer’s instruction, a result from self-test kits are most reliable when performed twice, at least 24 hours apart.
 - b. Self-test kits may **NOT** be used for travel clearance testing requirements.
 - c. If a member elects to utilize a self-test kit and receives a positive result they will immediately isolate and contact the 35 MDG Public Health DSN:226-6116.
 - d. Members may use a self-test kit for their Close Contact testing requirement (use on day 4 and 5)

1. **Command and Control:** All transient flights arriving to Misawa AB (ICAO: RJSM) will contact Misawa Command Post (35 FW/CP), 30 minutes prior to arrival and report if any crew, cabin attendants, or passengers are exhibiting symptoms of respiratory illness and/or fever.
 - a. If 35 FW/CP is notified of an ill individual on the plane, they will request an ambulance to be dispatched to the plane and notify Public Health.
 - b. No other personnel would be allowed to board the plane except for the responding medic, and the ill individual will be brought to the 35 MDG UCC. The passengers will wait until they are cleared by the responding medical team and/or Public Health to deplane.
 - c. If symptoms are present, all arriving aircrew that will disembark and remain overnight, regardless of origin, must contact the 35 FW/CP Commercial: 0176-77-3500 or DSN 315-226-3500.
2. **Medical Screening:** All crews will be screened by a member of the 35th FW, including a questionnaire. Medical personnel will provide further guidance if any aircrew member presents symptoms of COVID-19.
 - a. Transient aircrew will only receive a COVID-19 test on Misawa AB if they are experiencing symptoms or have been exposed to a COVID-19 positive individual.
3. **ROM Requirements:**
 - a. Transient aircrew who had a negative molecular pre-departure COVID test will be exempt from the ROM requirements regardless of vaccination status. Aircrew without a molecular pre-departure COVID test will follow the ROM guidance below.
 - b. Transient aircrew members from outside of Japan will be on Installation ROM if they did not receive a negative molecular pre-departure test or did not have at least one booster.
 - c. Transient aircrew whose stay has been extended may have their ROM restrictions lifted with coordination through Public Health DSN: 226-6116.
4. **Transportation:** 35th Logistics Readiness Squadron will provide buses for dedicated transient aircrew movement (28-passenger and 44-passenger buses as required).
 - a. Ground Transportation will only transport aircrew between the aircraft, Command Post, Base Operations, and lodging and for food as needed to ensure mission completion. No other stops are authorized.
5. The sponsoring unit for TDY members will ensure the member's health and welfare are taken care of (meals, hygiene items, etc.,) as well as ensuring TDY members understand the Misawa COVID-19 policy and directives.
6. If you have any questions or need additional guidance, please contact: 35 FW/CP: DSN 315-226-3500, 35 LRS Ground Transportation Operations Center: DSN 315-226-3328.

REFERENCES

- (1) USFJ Force Health Protection Order 22-010 (Effective 11 Oct 2022)
- (2) [Consolidated Department of Defense Coronavirus Disease 2019 Force Health Protection Guidance \(30 August 2022\)](#)
- (3) [U.S. Indo-Pacific Command Force Health Protection Guidance Supplement 14 \(06 Jan 2021\)](#)
- (4) [CDC COVID-19 Guidance for Cleaning and Disinfection for Non-emergency Transport Vehicles \(14 Apr 2020\)](#)