



# NEWS RELEASE

UNITED STATES AIR FORCE

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**NR2021\_01\_05\_1**  
**Jan 5, 2021**

## **PRESS RELEASE UPDATE: Two Additional Misawa Members Confirmed with COVID-19**

**MISAWA AIR BASE, Japan** – Two additional individuals in the Misawa Air Base community tested positive for COVID-19. The current number of active cases at Misawa Air Base is five.

The two members self-identified as being potentially exposed to COVID after the community was notified about a COVID cluster associated with two off-base restaurants. Both members immediately went into self-isolation, and subsequently tested positive for COVID. The individuals will remain in isolation. The 35th Medical Group Public Health office is actively conducting contact tracing and COVID testing for all base personnel who were exposed to community members with COVID.

Effective immediately, to mitigate risk while public health officials complete contact tracing and COVID testing for base personnel with potential exposure to COVID, the installation commander has extended the directive for all Misawa Air Base personnel to limit on and off base movement to essential activities until Jan. 7, at 11:59 p.m. During this timeframe base personnel must comply with the following restrictions:

- Limit dining to take-out only; no dining in (on and off base)
- Limit social gatherings to 10 personnel or less
- Make deliberate, essential purchases only. Buy, don't "shop"

Additionally, installation leadership is coordinating closely with Department of Defense Education Activity officials and public health officials to assess potential impacts to schools. At this time, DoDEA schools on Misawa AB will continue to operate in-person.

U.S. Forces Japan remains at a heightened level of alert and maintains a public health emergency, which applies to all personnel.

Actions required by units within USFJ during this elevated health protection status include:

- Limiting or cancelling in-person meetings, training events, formations, large social gatherings, etc.
- Monitoring conditions in areas near U.S. facilities and areas and close coordination with local health officials.

- Encouraging strict hygiene measures, including frequent handwashing and wiping down common surface areas on a regular basis.
- Implementing health screening measures at points of entry onto installations.
- Maintain a close-contact log to improve contact tracing in the event a member becomes ill with COVID-19, and to quickly isolate other potential contacts.

For up-to-date information, please continue to monitor the USFJ Facebook, @USForcesJapan, as well as Misawa AB Facebook, @MisawaAirBase.

Updates from the Centers for Disease Control are available here:

<https://wwwnc.cdc.gov/travel/notices/alert/coronavirus-japan>

The U.S. Embassy in Tokyo has additional information available here:

<https://jp.usembassy.gov/u-s-citizen-services/covid-19-information/>