



NEWS RELEASE

UNITED STATES AIR FORCE

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NR2021_01_15_1
Jan 15, 2021

PRESS RELEASE: Two Misawa Members Confirmed with COVID-19

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

The two members have been in quarantine since Jan. 3 due to close contact with a COVID positive member. The two members tested COVID positive during routine quarantine testing, and are currently isolated on Misawa AB. The 35th Medical Group Public Health office determined no additional close contacts were made.

To mitigate risk associated with the spread of COVID from other active cases in the local area, the installation commander directed the following restrictions for all personnel on or assigned to Misawa Air Base, including but not limited to, U.S. military personnel, U.S. civilian employees, all dependents, Department of Defense retirees, host-nation employees, and contractors.

- Limit off-base dining in Misawa City to take-out only; no dining in
- Make deliberate, necessary purchases in Misawa City. Buy, don't "shop"
- Off-base workout facilities, amusement/theme parks, and concerts/festivals are off-limits
- Bars, night clubs, karaoke clubs, and social clubs are off-limits
- Limit off-base gatherings within Misawa City to 10 personnel or less or 50 percent of meeting capacity space, whichever is less
- Limit on-base and off-base gatherings, excluding Misawa City, to 50 personnel or less or 50 percent of meeting capacity space, whichever is less
- If a gathering is going to include more than the numbers mentioned above, the Point of Contact for the function must first discuss the purpose of the function with the first O-6 or GS-15 in the chain of command. If there is not an O-6 or GS-15 in the chain of command, they must discuss the purpose of the function with the Mission Support Group Commander.

U.S. Force Japan also 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/>