



MISAWA AIR BASE COVID-19 GUIDANCE

EFFECTIVE DATE: 23 March 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. Failure to comply with this order by U.S. civilian employees may result in disciplinary administrative action and/or a determination that the employee has failed to adjust to the overseas environment. Violations by dependents may result in administrative sanctions, up to and including the loss of command sponsorship and an early return of dependents.

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/>

Foreign Clearance Guide, Japan

https://www.fcg.pentagon.mil/static/Japan_2022_10_COVID-19_Guidance.pdf

Government of Japan Travel Regulations:

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

TEAM	CONTACT INFORMATION	I HAVE A QUESTION ABOUT...
35 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) Not required in buses, vans, or cars that remain on USFJ installations or travel between USFJ installations.
 - (2) Individuals may choose to wear masks on base at their discretion unless otherwise directed
 - (3) Individuals in DoD health care facilities and veterinarian clinic are not required to wear mask unless the following apply:
 - a. Have suspected or confirmed SARS-CoV-2 infection or other respiratory infection (e.g., those with runny nose, cough, sneeze); or
 - b. Had close contact with someone with SARS-CoV-2 infection within the past 10 days; or
 - c. Have tested positive for SARS-CoV-2 within the past 10 days; or
 - d. Are in areas of clinics/departments that are experiencing an outbreak or for Healthcare Personnel (HCP) who have returned under other than conventional criteria.
 - b. Off base:
 - (1) Personnel should follow host nation policies and practices regarding mask wear. Children ages 6 and below are not required to wear a mask.

OFF BASE PROCEDURES

1. Members will follow host nation and local community policies and practices.
2. Misawa members are authorized to use commercial public transportation throughout Japan unless they have tested positive or are quarantined as described below.
 - a. 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.

LEAVE AND TRAVEL PROCEDURES

1. Traveling into Japan (Commercial and MILAIR/Patriot Express):

a. Commercial Travel.

- (1) Personnel will follow Government of Japan testing guidance for entry into Japan. Travelers will comply with commercial airport testing procedures.
- (2) Travelers who have at least 1 booster or travelers who have received a negative molecular COVID-19 pre-travel test within 3 days of departure are exempt from arrival testing.
- (3) ETP for pre-departure testing exemption is no longer available. All travelers including SOFA members will follow GOJ policy for the entry into Japan.
- (4) Travelers who have not had at least one booster or travelers without a pre-travel test will be subject to arrival testing.
- (5) Travelers who received a negative antigen pre-travel test will be subject to additional testing on arrival at a commercial airport or within 1 day of arrival at the installation where their travel terminates (e.g., residence, air terminal, MTF).
- (6) Self-test kits may **NOT** be used for travel clearance testing requirements
- (7) Children aged 6 and under may assume the vaccination status of the least vaccinated parent present.
- (8) Individuals recovered from COVID-19 infection within 90 days of travel must receive clearance from a health care provider and maintain a copy of the recovery letter in their possession during travel. Travelers who have recovered from COVID-19 infection within the past 90 days are required to present the following documentation:
 - i. Documentation of positive test result, must state "Positive," "SARS-CoV-2 RNA Detected," "SARS-CoV-2 Antigen Detected," or "COVID-19 Detected.
 - ii. Signed letter on official letterhead containing name, address, and phone number of licensed healthcare provider stating passenger is cleared for travel.
 - iii. Documentation and letter personal identifiers (name, birth date) must match other travel documents.
- (9) Traveling within 10 days of a positive COVID-19 test is prohibited.
- (10) 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.
- (11) Pre-registration at the Visit Japan Web may streamline the commercial airport procedures (<https://www.vjw.digital.go.jp/main/#/vjwpl001>).

2. **Patriot Express Breakdowns:** Travelers transiting Japan on MILAIR/PE flights who make a temporary or unexpected stop due to maintenance or weather are exempt from arrival testing requirements, as long as they remain on installation.

3. **Official and Unofficial Travel out of Japan:** All travel out of the Japan will follow the requirements in the Foreign Clearance Guide and other requirements by the relevant GCC Commander, DoD Guidance, HN, or local restrictions.

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 their unit supervisor or health monitor and Public Health.
2. All positive persons need to self-isolate in their own domicile for a total of 5 days plus 2 days of installation ROM.
 - a. If you never had any symptoms, isolation-in-place ends at the midnight of the 5th day (day 0 is the date of positive test).
 - b. If initially 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. Same criteria apply for release from the installation ROM.

- c. All positive members will wear a mask and practice social distancing for a total of 10 days. Public transportation is prohibited during this time.
- 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. 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.
- 5. JASDF personnel, LN employees, and visitors diagnosed with COVID-19 will be denied access to all U.S. facilities until completion of isolation. These personnel will follow applicable GoJ guidance regarding isolation protocols. JASDF 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.
- 6. Take precautions for 10 full days after the positive test or onset of symptoms: Wear a well-fitting mask. Do not go to places where you are unable to wear a mask. Do not travel. Practice strict mitigation strategies including avoiding crowds, practicing social distancing procedures, and hand and cough hygiene.
- 7. Use of public transportation is not authorized while in quarantine or isolation status.

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. Individuals who meet the criteria for COVID-19 exposure will begin on-base quarantine procedures.
 - b. Individuals in quarantine will remain on installation or domicile for a minimum of 5 days while practicing strict mitigation strategies including avoiding crowds, wearing a mask at all times around others, practicing social distancing procedures, and hand and cough hygiene for a total of 10 days.
 - c. Travel between domicile and installation is authorized on non-public transportation.
 - d. **Individuals will test after day 5 following exposure**, or earlier if the individual develops symptoms.
- 2. A cohabitant will maintain at-home isolation and follow Close Contact Procedures as listed in this section.
- 3. If the test is negative, the individual remains asymptomatic, and 5 days or more have elapsed, they may be released from installation ROM.
- 4. If the test is positive, individual will enter isolation and will be subject to isolation and release protocols (See Instructions after Testing Positive).
- 5. For persons diagnosed with COVID-19 in the last 90 days who remain asymptomatic after recovery, in the event of subsequent close contact with confirmed SARS-CoV-2 positive individuals, additional quarantine is not necessary or recommended during the CDC-specified time period, as long as they remain symptom-free. Consultation with a public health official is required to make a final determination.
- 6. These individuals will continue to self-monitor for symptoms of COVID-19 for the next 10 days, but quarantine and testing is not required.
 - a. If they become symptomatic, they should immediately self-isolate and seek medical attention to determine if repeat testing is necessary.
- 7. **Healthcare personnel:**
 - a. While in performance of their duties, all healthcare personnel (defined as medical, dental, first responders) exposed to patients determined to be SARS-CoV-2 positive, and in situations where appropriate PPE was utilized, shall not be considered close contacts for quarantine or contact tracing purposes.

COVID TESTING AND RESULTS

- 1. COVID Testing Sites and Times
 - a. All testing will be performed in individual clinics, unless symptoms are severe enough to require urgent medical care, in which case the individual is recommended to present to the UCS.

- b. Off-base appointment testing: most local hospitals terminated pre-appointment testing requirements. If, however, it is required for a particular appointment, the test will be performed on an appointment basis. Individuals will coordinate with PCM clinic and/or 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 Kits are no longer distributed from the 35th Medical Group. Home test kits are available at off-base pharmacies for purchase.
 - a. 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.
 - b. Members may use a self-test kit for their Close Contact Testing requirement (use on day 5)

TRANSIENT AIRCREW

- 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 aboard 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. **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.
 - 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.
- 3. **Ground Transportation:**
 - a. 35th Logistics Readiness Squadron will provide buses for dedicated transient aircrew movement (28-passenger and 44-passenger buses as required). 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.

REFERENCES

- (1) USFJ Force Health Protection Order 23-001 (Effective 14 March 2023)
- (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 \(14 Apr 2020\)](#)