



MARFORJ Key COVID-19 Policies for Arriving Personnel to Okinawa

Current as of: 5 November 2021

On behalf of the III MEF/MARFORJ Commanding General, welcome to Okinawa. We understand you have just landed from a long flight. However, we want to provide some key COVID-19 policies to guide you over the next 14 days.

Restriction of Movement (ROM): Regardless of vaccination status, the Government of Japan requires a ROM aboard a U.S. installation or at a permanently assigned domicile. Arrival day is considered Day 0.

- **Fully Vaccinated:** 10 days restricted to a U.S. installation, but full access aboard the installation. If a permanent assigned residence is off-base, may travel to and from a U.S. installation via POV/GOV, cycling, walking, or running. Test at Day 5, if negative and the full 10 day ROM is complete, may then travel off installations. Between day 7 and day 10, and in receipt of a negative COVID-19 test, fully vaccinated personnel are authorized off installations for essential services only. Public transportation and all other activities off installations are prohibited. Contact your chain of command for approved essential services.
- **Unvaccinated:** 14 days restricted to a U.S. installation. Days 0-7 are considered a strict ROM (confined to domicile) and cannot leave permanent assigned residence. Test at Day 5, if negative, Days 8-14 are full access aboard the installation. Once the full 14 day ROM is complete, may then travel off installations.
- During the ROM period, if you or a family member begin experiencing COVID-19 like symptoms, inform your chain of command/supervisor and visit the Military Health System Nurse Advice Line by visiting [MHSNurseAdviceLine.com](https://www.mhsna.com) or 1-800-TRICARE or if need be, go to the Emergency Department.

In the event of a positive COVID-19 test result: Positive patients will transition to isolation and continue to be evaluated by medical personnel. On-base isolation facilities must be utilized unless authorized by an O-5 commander or GS/NAF supervisor equivalent to isolate in a permanently assigned domicile.

- The duration of isolation will be determined by competent medical authority. For most positive COVID-19 patients, isolation can generally be discontinued 10 days after symptom onset and resolution of fever for at least 24 hours, without the use of fever-reducing medications, with improvement of other symptoms, and requires an evaluation for release by a competent medical authority.
- A limited number of persons with severe illness may produce replication-competent virus beyond 10 days that may warrant extending duration of isolation and precautions for up to 20 days after symptom onset.
- Any unvaccinated personnel who traveled with or live with the positive patient will likely be deemed a close contact, incur a 7 day quarantine from the last exposure to the positive patient, and must be tested no earlier than Day 5 **OR** may conduct a 10 day quarantine with no test.
- If a positive patient isolates in their domicile with unvaccinated personnel, the quarantine for unvaccinated co-inhabitants will not begin until the positive patient has been deemed recovered by competent medical authority. This means for any unvaccinated close contacts who remain in the domicile with a confirmed patient, they will experience a minimum of 17 days in a quarantine status, with the possibility they will test positive at the end of quarantine, resulting in more than 25 days in a quarantine/isolation status.
- In order to avoid infecting co-inhabitants and help them avoid a prolonged quarantine, it is highly recommended personnel who test positive utilize the isolation facilities, while their co-inhabitants remain in place.

Tenets for COVID-19 mitigation:

- Wear masks inside U.S. government buildings, and off-base while indoors or where social distancing cannot be maintained.
- Avoid large gatherings, minimize interactions, and maintain social distancing.
- Maintain good personal hygiene and hygiene within your domicile and workspaces.
- Seek medical attention immediately if symptomatic by contacting your chain of command and calling the COVID Care Line.
- Comply with published guidance and preventative measures.

The personal data sheet you filled out and turned in at the passenger terminal will be used to schedule your Day 5 COVID-19 test.

If you have a COVID-19 question not addressed in this letter, contact your chain of command or sponsor. You can also reference <https://www.iiimef.marines.mil/Coronavirus/>, "III MEF Marines" Facebook Page, and "JCRC Updates" page via Facebook.