

Team Sheppard,

After consulting with our medical and public health professionals, I have made the decision to implement Health Protection Condition (HPCON) Bravo to continue and deepen our focus on preventing the spread of COVID-19 in our community.

We have already implemented a number of HPCON Bravo measures, including social distancing, self-isolation, no-touch ID card check and curtailing or canceling gatherings and events. Fully implementing HPCON Bravo will provide additional authorities to leaders and assist us as we work to flatten the curve in our fight against COVID-19.

Additional actions will be announced over the next 24 hours. Some may be inconvenient but they are necessary. I ask for your patience, support and compliance. The first change you will notice will be at the gates. We have implemented 100 percent ID checks, and new pass requests will be permitted only for official business. These requests must be submitted through the sponsoring unit commander or equivalent for validation. Veterans ID card holders, military retirees and dependents continue to have base access.

This decision helps us continue our focus on prevention. There are no confirmed cases of COVID-19 at Sheppard, however we are also closely connected and intermingled with our community. There are five confirmed cases in the local community, all travel-related, and our downtown partners have done an outstanding job of managing those cases. We continue to work in close partnership with the Wichita County Health District along with the mayors and other leaders of our neighboring communities.

I ask everyone to heighten their focus on the five key guidelines we have been given:

- Wash your hands frequently, use hand sanitizer and avoid touching your face
- Practice social distancing and limit all gatherings as much as possible
- Disinfect commonly touched or used surfaces and objects often
- Suspend travel that is not absolutely necessary
- If you are sick, please stay home; avoid contact with others who are sick

Finally, take care of each other. Be a good wingman and a good neighbor. This will be our new normal for some time. We must stay unified and connected and I am absolutely confident we will be successful.

In the end, We Win. Together, let's Conquer COVID19!

Sincerely,

Col Bell
KENYON K. BELL, Colonel, USAF
Commander, 82d Training Wing
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