



DEPARTMENT OF THE AIR FORCE

2D MEDICAL GROUP (AFGSC)
BARKSDALE AIR FORCE BASE LOUISIANA

09 November 2020

MEMORANDUM FOR BAFB UNITS

FROM: 2D BOMB WING PUBLIC HEALTH EMERGENCY OFFICER (PHEO)

SUBJECT: Recommendation for COVID-19 Operating Procedures – Holiday Celebrations & Gatherings

1. During the COVID-19 pandemic, appropriate protective measures are paramount for any holiday celebrations or gatherings. There are varying levels of risk for the spread of the virus based on factors such as the size of the event and the utilization of prevention strategies. As we begin plans for winter holiday celebrations and gatherings, please remember there is still a great deal of uncertainty about the course of the pandemic.
2. Follow 2 BW COVID-19 Installation Policy Guidance – Change 9.1 in addition to the below recommendations regarding holiday celebrations or gatherings. Due to the rapidly changing COVID-19 climate and inability to predict what the situation will look like in the upcoming months, these recommendations are subject to change.
3. Public Health recommends the following guidance to installation leadership for coordination and planning for holiday celebrations or gatherings. In-person celebrations should only be considered if attendees are able to abide by COVID-19 prevention measures.
 - a. Personnel should be advised not to participate in any holiday festivities if they have COVID-19 symptoms, have been exposed to someone with COVID-19 within the last 14 days, or are currently on restriction of movement, quarantine or isolation status.
 - b. Limit the number of attendees at the event as larger gatherings pose a greater risk for COVID-19 transmission.
 - c. Wear a mask at all times when social distancing (at least 6 feet) cannot be maintained and when around personnel who do not live in the same household.
 - d. Maintain 6 feet of space between personnel from different households.
 - e. Indoor parties or celebrations ARE NOT recommended as they generally pose a higher risk for COVID-19 transmission compared to outdoor events. The following are provided as considerations for event venues:
 - (1) Host parties or celebrations in an outdoor venue (if possible) providing heaters or fire pits during colder weather. Social distancing should be ensured for those choosing to utilize warming devices.
 - (2) If an indoor venue is utilized, follow current COVID-19 Installation Policy Guidance.
 - f. Provide controlled flow at the venue entrance and exit at the beginning and conclusion of the event to ensure social distancing.
 - g. Limit seating at tables to only members of the same household. If members of the same household are not seated together, 6 feet distance should be maintained for table seating.
 - h. Self-service food (e.g. buffet style) or beverage areas ARE NOT recommended.

- (1) Food or beverages should be served by designated personnel.
 - (2) Avoid use of shareable food or beverage items (e.g. containers, condiments, etc.) and provide single-use options.
 - (3) Ensure social distancing is enforced for any serving lines.
 - (4) Masks may be removed to allow for eating and/or drinking when attendees are dining and sitting more than 6 feet apart from members of other households. Masks should be worn otherwise.
- i. Dancing IS NOT recommended during any holiday celebrations or gatherings. Dancing causes higher physical exertion and breathing which may increase the risk of spreading COVID-19.
 - j. The provision of alcohol beverages IS NOT recommended during any holiday celebrations or gatherings as consumption of these beverages may impair judgement and decrease adherence to COVID-19 prevention measures.
 - k. Document attendees at any holiday celebrations or gatherings to assist Public Health with any future contact tracing investigations should positive COVID-19 cases following the event occur.

4. The intent of these recommendations is to continue to protect our most important asset...our Airmen and their families. If you have any questions regarding these recommendations, please contact Public Health at DSN 781-6599 or Commercial 318-456-6599.

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MEMORANDUM FOR 2D BOMB WING PUBLIC HEALTH EMERGENCY OFFICER

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