



## Message from the General Manager COVID-19 Update | October 14, 2020

NAS Team,

Week of October 12-16, Phase 2 of AEDC Return to Full Capacity (RtFC) operations are continuing.

NAS COVID-19 Updates are being sent out each week on Wednesdays.

### **KEY UPDATES**

- **Important Reminder:** Recently, there were two incidents of “close contact” among NAS employees who, although they were wearing a face covering, remained within six feet of a colleague for greater than 15 minutes who later tested positive for COVID-19. Employees **must** avoid close contact situations and maintain situational awareness. If extended time working within 6 feet of a colleague is unavoidable, increase protection to a KN95/N95 respirator if contact could, or is expected to, last more than 15 minutes.
- Since our last update, there have been six new cases of COVID-19 within the NAS workforce and two additional new cases at AEDC.
  1. On Oct 7, an NAS employee who works in Building 929 tested positive for COVID-19. The employee’s last day of work was Oct 2. Contact tracing has been completed.
  2. On Oct 8, an NAS employee who works in Building 929 tested positive for COVID-19. The employee’s last day of work was Oct 2. Contact tracing has been completed.
  3. On Oct 8, an NAS employee who works in Building 251 tested positive for COVID-19. The employee’s last day of work was Oct 7. Contact tracing has been completed.
  4. On Oct 9, a DOD employee who works in Building 3017 tested positive for COVID-19. The employee’s last day of work was Oct 7. Contact tracing has been completed.
  5. On Oct 9, an NAS employee who works in Building 877 tested positive for COVID-19. The employee’s last day of work was Oct 8. Contact tracing has been completed.
  6. On Oct 11, an NAS employee who works in Building 877 tested positive for COVID-19. The employee’s last day of work was Sep 29. Contact tracing has been completed.
  7. On Oct 11, an NAS employee who works in Buildings 648 and 745 tested positive for COVID-19. The employee’s last day of work was Oct 9. Contact tracing has been completed.
  8. On Oct 13, an employee of another AEDC contractor who works in Building 1477 tested positive for COVID-19. The employee’s last day of work was Oct 8. Contact tracing has been completed.
- With the onset of flu season, employees are encouraged to consider obtaining the flu vaccine as soon as practical. By getting vaccinated for the flu an individual:
  - Mitigates the potential impact to themselves of having the flu.
  - Reduces the potential transmission of the flu to their family and co-workers.
  - Lowers the potential of having flu symptoms that are consistent with COVID-19 symptoms.
- Several group sessions were conducted Sep 16-18 with salary and wage employees to obtain feedback on AF and NAS actions in response to the COVID-19 pandemic. Responses to questions raised during the sessions will be compiled within a “COVID-19 Feedback” FAQ. Details will follow once all the responses are compiled.
- Personal vigilance is critical to avoiding person-to-person transmission of COVID-19 at AEDC. Please be disciplined in maintaining social distancing, obtaining and using increased protection if conditions change, and utilizing appropriate personal hygiene practices.



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- **Appropriate wearing of face coverings includes covering your nose. NAS Team members are reminded that they must comply with AEDC's COVID-19 preventive measures. See Safety Message below.**
- **Social distancing criteria applies to all common areas. Increased vigilance and compliance is needed in smoking areas.**
- **Additional preventative measures are being assessed for break areas based on a best practice identified in Base Operations & Support.**

### GENERAL INFORMATION

#### Phase 2 RtFC Operations:

- The AEDC Commander's top priority during RtFC Phase 2 remains protecting the health of the workforce. Recent trends indicate the pandemic remains a significant health concern.

#### NAS Status

- Arnold AFB is in HPCON Charlie; Tier 2 operations began April 6; RtFC Phase 1 operations began June 1; RtFC Phase 2 began June 15.
- Tunnel 9 is in HPCON Charlie; Tier 2 operations resumed April 27; RtFC Phase 1 operations began June 1; RtFC Phase 2 began July 1.
- NFAC is in HPCON Charlie and NASA Stage 4; Week Zero operations were completed June 19; Week 1 operations began June 22; NFAC has been at full staffing since July 6; situational teleworking is continuing based on availability of productive work.
- Domestic business travel is permitted with Director approval in writing; international travel must be followed by 14 days of quarantine upon return to the United States.

**NOTE: NAS employees are required to wear a KN95/N95 respirator or greater protection when social distancing compliance cannot be maintained for extended interactions.**

### COVID-19 INFORMATION

**Notify your supervisor** if you have been tested for COVID-19 and are awaiting results or if you or an immediate family member have:

- A confirmed COVID-19 case; been quarantined; or been placed under medical observation.

**Preventive measures include** six feet spacing and especially wearing face coverings around others; when we follow prevention procedures and protocols, we are

- Protecting the health of ourselves and our co-workers.
- Ensuring the AEDC mission can continue without interruption.
- Securing our ability to continue to work.

Employees are reminded to follow "Stand Up – Mask Up" protection for personal safety and the health of our colleagues.

Business Travel (to include work-related medical appointments) within the State of Tennessee can be approved at the Branch Manager level.

Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs) are available on the NAS internal website at <https://team.nas-llc.us/Pages/Coronavirus-Info.aspx>.

Call your primary care provider first, and the provider will conduct triage over the phone. If you meet the criteria, you will be tested.



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### SAFETY MESSAGE

- **Smoking areas, breakrooms, breaks, and company social gatherings for work anniversaries, birthdays, retirements, etc.**, require us all to remain mindful of COVID-19 prevention strategies and risk mitigations.
- Mask Fatigue continues to be a Safety Concern; be diligent in the wearing of face coverings and stay aware of changing work conditions which might require increasing the level of protection to KN95/N95 respirators due to inability to maintain adequate co-worker separation.
- If you have any safety concerns, elevate them to NAS leadership immediately.

### Managers and Supervisors

- Please ensure this information is shared with your teams.

### Craft Supervisors

- Please read this email to your team members.

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Richard Tighe, Ph.D.  
NAS General Manager