



Message from the General Manager COVID-19 Update | February 24, 2021

Managers and Supervisors – Ensure this information is shared with your teams.

Craft Supervisors – Read this email to your team members at your toolbox meetings.

NAS Team,

The number of new positive COVID-19 cases within the NAS and AEDC workforce decreased from last week. Thank you for your focus to continue this positive trend of lower positive cases in four of the last five weeks.

Last week, the AEDC Commander directed implementation of Secretary of the Air Force (SAF) guidance on the wearing of masks on Air Force installations. As a reminder, the SAF directive makes an exception for mask wear when outdoors in situations where proper physical distancing (>6 feet) can be maintained. In summary, the SAF directive requires mask wear when:

- Inside any facility.
- Working in a cubicle.
- In common areas.
- In conference rooms.

NOTE: The above requirements also apply to employees who have been vaccinated.

Should there be additional changes or clarifications to mask requirements they will be provided in future revisions to the NAS Return to Work policy.

Please stay attentive, be safe, and look out for each other.

Thanks,

Rich

Richard Tighe, Ph.D.
NAS General Manager

Week of February 22-26, Phase 2 of AEDC Return to Full Capacity (RtFC) operations are continuing.

NAS COVID-19 Updates will be sent out each week on Wednesdays.

KEY UPDATES

- **The number of new COVID-19 cases this week among the NAS workforce is lower than last week. Nevertheless, the overall number of cases within the NAS workforce (262) continues to be a concern. Close contact among employees must be avoided.**
- **It is extremely important to adhere to COVID-19 preventive measures in break rooms. When removing your mask to eat or drink, ensure that you maintain at least 6 feet separation from others. Remain outside of 6 feet when approaching anyone not wearing a mask.**
- **Under Arnold AFB Screening Guidelines, base access is denied for 14 days for anyone returning from travel outside the continental U.S.**



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- **Notify your supervisor immediately if you:**
 - Test positive for COVID-19.
 - Develop COVID-19 symptoms.
 - Have close contact with anyone testing positive for COVID-19.
- **Close contact for more than 15 minutes cumulative time over a 24-hour period *requires* the increased protection of a KN95/N95 mask.**
- **Since our last update, there have been 3 new cases of COVID-19 within the NAS workforce and 1 case of COVID-19 for non-NAS AEDC employees.**
 1. **On Feb 19, a NAS employee who works in Building 797 tested positive for COVID-19. The employee's last day of work was Feb 18. Contact tracing has been completed.**
 2. **On Feb 21, a NAS employee who works in Building 929 tested positive for COVID-19. The employee's last day of work was Feb 20. Contact tracing has been completed.**
 3. **On Feb 22, a non-NAS contractor employee who in Building 939 tested positive for COVID-19. The employee's last day of work at Arnold was Feb 19. Contact tracing was not needed due to passage of time.**
 4. **On Feb 24, a NAS employee who works in Building 740 tested positive for COVID-19. The employee's last day of work was Feb 22. Contact tracing has been completed.**
- **Employees must remain disciplined at work in maintaining social distancing, obtaining and using increased protection if conditions change, and utilizing appropriate personal hygiene practices.**

GENERAL INFORMATION

Phase 2 RtFC Operations

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

NAS Status (No Change)

- Arnold AFB is in HPCON Charlie; Tier 2 operations began April 6, 2020; RtFC Phase 1 operations began June 1, 2020; RtFC Phase 2 began June 15, 2020.
- Tunnel 9 is in HPCON Charlie; Tier 2 operations resumed April 27, 2020; RtFC Phase 1 operations began June 1, 2020; RtFC Phase 2 began July 1, 2020.
- NFAC is in HPCON Charlie and NASA Stage 3; Week Zero operations were completed June 19, 2020; Week 1 operations began June 22, 2020; NFAC has been at full staffing since July 6, 2020; 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: All NAS employees are required to wear a KN95/N95 mask 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, including hospitalization.



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Preventive measures include six feet spacing and mandatory wear of 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.

Compliance with the commander's mask wear directive is essential 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.

SAFETY MESSAGE

- **Toolbox meetings, small group meeting, smoking areas, breakrooms, breaks, and company social gatherings for special recognition** require strict adherence to COVID-19 prevention strategies and risk mitigations.
- Mask Fatigue continues to be a persistent 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 masks due to inability to maintain adequate co-worker separation.
- If you have any safety concerns, elevate them to NAS leadership immediately.