



# Message from the General Manager COVID-19 Update | March 17, 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 slightly increased from last week; however, the number of new cases week-to-week remains relatively flat. In the past seven days there were six (6) additional positive cases within the NAS workforce and one (1) additional case within the DOD workforce. The positive trend of lower cases dating back to mid-January is continuing.

AEDC remains in HPCON Bravo+. Current mask wear guidance remains unchanged. Mask wear is required when:

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

### Recent Frequently Asked Questions (no change from last week)

**Q: Are face masks required for individuals who have been vaccinated?**

**A:** Yes, based on current CDC guidance face masks are still required. Although it is highly unlikely that a vaccinated person will contract COVID-19, they may still be a carrier of the virus and could potentially infect others.

**Q: If an employee receives the a dose of a COVID-19 vaccination and experiences “flu-like” or “COVID-like” symptoms that are attributed to the vaccine, are they still required to quarantine?**

**A:** If the symptoms associated with the vaccine present within 48 hours of receiving any COVID-19 vaccine, the employee is not denied base access. The symptoms must then lessen or disappear within 48 hours of onset.

**Q: If an employee with a positive antibody test for COVID-19 comes in close contact with someone who tests positive for COVID-19, is the employee required to quarantine?**

**A:** Yes, even if an employee receives a positive antibody test they are still required to quarantine if they come in close contact with someone who tests positive for COVID-19. The CDC does not provide guidance on how long a person may have immunity to COVID-19 following a positive antibody test.

Should there be additional changes or clarifications to mask requirements or vaccinations, 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

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Richard Tighe, Ph.D.

NAS General Manager



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Week of March 15-19, 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 higher than last week. The overall number of cases within the NAS workforce (274) continues to be a concern. Close contact among employees must be avoided.
- Employees must comply with 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.
- 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 6 new cases of COVID-19 within the NAS workforce and 1 case of COVID-19 for non-NAS AEDC employees.
  1. On Mar 9, an NAS employee who works in Building 445 tested positive for COVID-19. The employee's last day of work was Mar 8. Contact tracing has been completed.
  2. On Mar 10, a NAS employee who works in Building 1103 tested positive for COVID-19. The employee's last day of work was Feb 27. Contact tracing has been completed.
  3. On Mar 11, a NAS employee who works in Building 1103 tested positive for COVID-19. The employee's last day of work was Mar 9. Contact tracing has been completed.
  4. On Mar 12, a NAS employee who works in Buildings 520, 591, 2123, and 2124 tested positive for COVID-19. The employee's last day of work was Mar 9. Contact tracing has been completed.
  5. On Mar 14, a NAS employee who works in Buildings 878, 922, and 929 tested positive for COVID-19. The employee's last day of work was Mar 13. Contact tracing has been completed.
  6. On Mar 16, a NAS employee who works in Buildings 878 and 880 tested positive for COVID-19. The employee's last day of work was Mar 5. Contact tracing has been completed.
  7. On Mar 16, a DOD employee who works in Building 877 tested positive for COVID-19. The employee's last day of work was Mar 12. 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.



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### 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 Bravo+; 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 Bravo+; 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 Bravo+ 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.

**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.

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>.

### SAFETY MESSAGE

- **Toolbox meetings, small group meetings, smoking areas, breakrooms, breaks, and company social gatherings for special recognition** require strict adherence to COVID-19 prevention strategies and risk mitigations.
- Don't give in to mask fatigue; 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.
- If you have any safety concerns, elevate them to NAS leadership immediately.