



Team Minot,

In the last several days we have seen the presence of COVID-19 increase in our nation and we are seeing more confirmed positive cases in North Dakota. We now have our first positive case on Minot AFB of a non-military adult. We anticipated that this virus would eventually impact us, and we took immediate action to reduce the spread of the virus. The safety and health of each and every one of you is of utmost importance.

Yesterday we moved to Health Protection Condition Bravo Plus (HPCON B+) and we declared a Public Health Emergency. While those terms might sound confusing and possibly scary, rest assured that this condition level and status are an assertive way to maintain our ability to carry out our missions and keep you all well.

So what do you need to know about living and working in HPCON B+...

First, please keep doing the same safe hygiene practices and actions you previously performed in HPCON Alpha. For all our Team Minot members, wash your hands, avoid gatherings over 10 people, stay 6 feet away from others, stay home if you aren't feeling well, military members stay within a 45 mile radius of Minot AFB and let your Squadron leadership teams know if you need help with anything.

Here are the new things implemented and/or part of HPCON B+ that you can expect to see:

- Increases in telework, shift work or alternate work schedules. Our goal is to limit the amount of contact between members, while still getting after our critical missions.

- Cleaning standards will increase in all areas of the base. High-touch areas including, but not limited to, door knobs, handrails, faucets, phones, and keyboards, must be sanitized twice a day. Airmen operating vehicles must sanitize high-touch vehicle surfaces at the beginning and end of use. Please make sure you are following instructions on cleaner packaging.

- Military members will restrict travel and exposure to the maximum extent possible, to and from work and home, and to establishments supplying basic lifestyle needs (food, gas, and water supplies). Family members and civilians are highly encouraged to adhere to this policy as well. We live and work with you so your actions are critical.

-Military members and employees of Minot AFB are required to notify their unit leadership and Public Health if they believe they or anyone in their household could have COVID-19 or came into close contact (within 6 feet) of someone positive for COVID-19.

-Our high-contact, non-mission essential establishments that do not directly support basic lifestyle needs are being evaluated for temporary closure or reduced services. This includes many of our Force Support facilities, so please call ahead before visiting.

-All Minot AFB food service establishments are now take-out service only.

-Visitor passes for non-DOD affiliated members is restricted. Exceptions to this policy must be approved by the sponsor's Group commander.

We understand some of these changes will require sacrifices for our Team Minot Airmen and families and will also come with some challenges. Thank you in advance, and trust that we would not ask you to take these steps if it wasn't of utmost importance.

You might also notice some changes that are not related to HPCON B+, but are driven by the COVID-19 response.

For example, the BX and Commissary have remained open but they are conducting 100% ID check and limiting how much you can buy of things like toilet paper. Our Minot schools are currently closed, but lunch and breakfast are now being provided via the bus route for any interested school age child. Our Medical Group is still treating patients with acute medical needs, but some routine care that does not need immediate attention is being rescheduled.

The recent days have brought several changes, and we will most likely see more changes in the coming days. Although life feels a little different than it did a week ago, some things remain the same. We still stand ready to protect this great nation. We are still the same amazing community that supports one another, and we are still in this together. That's what makes us Minot Strong! We are proud to serve with you and please know that we appreciate everything you are doing. #MinotStrong



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