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HEADQUARTERS, U.S. ARMY MEDICAL CENTER OF EXCELLENCE
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ATMC-CG

11 June 2021

MEMORANDUM FOR All U.S. Army Medical Center of Excellence (MEDCoE) Personnel

SUBJECT: General Order Number 4 - Prohibited Activities, Standards of Conduct, and Force Health Protection

1. PURPOSE. This General Order identifies prohibited conduct that is prejudicial to the good order, discipline, health, and safety of all U.S. Army Medical Center of Excellence (MEDCoE) personnel. The purpose of this order is to protect the force, families, and the mission by mitigating the spread of COVID-19.

2. SUPERCESSION. General Order Number 3, dated 19 March 2021, is hereby rescinded.

3. AUTHORITY. The Uniform Code of Military Justice, 10 U.S.C. Chapter 47; Army Regulation (AR) 27-10, Military Justice and Legal Services, 19 August 2014; U.S. Army Training and Doctrine Command (TRADOC) Regulation 350-6, 9 August 2019; AR 600-20, Army Command Policy, 24 July 2020; Secretary of Defense (SECDEF) Memorandum, Use of Masks and Other Public Health Measures, 4 February 2021; Deputy Secretary of Defense (DEPSECDEF) Memorandum, Updated Mask Guidance for Vaccinated Persons, 13 May 2021; SECDEF Memorandum, Guidance for Commanders' Risk-Based Responses and Implementation of the Health Protection Condition Framework During the Coronavirus Disease 2019 Pandemic, 29 April 2021; Secretary of the Army (SECARMY) Memorandum, Use of Masks and Delegation Authority to Grant Exceptions, 24 February 2021.

4. REFERENCES.

a. SECDEF Memorandum, Use of Masks and Other Public Health Measures, 4 February 2021.

b. SECDEF Memorandum, Guidance for Commanders' Risk-Based Responses and Implementation of the Health Protection Condition Framework During the Coronavirus Disease 2019 Pandemic, 29 April 2021.

c. DEPSECDEF Memorandum, Updated Mask Guidance for Vaccinated Persons, 13 May 2021.

d. USD (P&R) Memo, "Extension of Maximum Telework Flexibilities," 20 November 2020.

e. DoD Force Health Protection Guidance Supplement 17, 17 Mar 21.

f. DoD Force Health Protection Guidance Supplement 20, 12 April 2021.

g. SECARMY Memorandum, Use of Masks and Delegation Authority to Grant Exceptions, 24 February 2021.

h. AR 600-20, Army Command Policy, 24 July 2020.

i. AR 670-1, Wear and Appearance of Army Uniforms and Insignia, 26 January 2021.

j. TRADOC Regulation 350-6, Enlisted Initial Entry Training Policies and Administration, 9 August 2019.

k. JBSA Commander Coronavirus Guidance Memoranda (https://www.jbsa.mil/coronavirus)

l. Commanding General, Commander's Policy #9, 11 February 2021.

m. 32d Medical Brigade Commander's Policy #7, 6 April 2021.

5. APPLICABILITY. This General Order applies to all service members of every unit and organization assigned, attached, or otherwise subject to the general court-martial convening authority of the Commander, MEDCoE, at Joint Base San Antonio-Fort Sam Houston. Family members, Department of the Army Civilians, and Contractors (hereinafter "Civilians") are requested and strongly encouraged to abide by these measures.

6. STATEMENT OF MILITARY PURPOSE AND NECESSITY. The persistent threat presented by the COVID-19 pandemic requires aggressive prevention and mitigation measures to reduce the transmission of the disease. Restrictions on certain activities are essential to preserving the health of Soldiers, Civilians, and Family Members.

7. PROHIBITED ACTIVITIES.

a. Alcohol. Trainees, as defined by TRADOC 350-6, which includes all Soldiers in Advanced Individual Training (Initial entry enlisted trainees in Phase I through Phase V+, prior service trainees in re-enlistment training, DLIFLC), are prohibited from

possessing, purchasing, distributing, and/or consuming alcohol. This provision does not apply to prior service trainees attending school for re-classification training, who will adhere to policy established by Commander, 32d Medical Brigade (32d MED BDE). In addition to the aforementioned prohibitions, no service member of any rank or status (i.e., trainee or permanent party) may provide alcohol (i.e., distribute to or purchase for) to trainees who are prohibited from consuming alcohol.

b. Off-post travel. Effective immediately, all students assigned permanently or temporarily to MEDCoE, other than Trainees as defined by TRADOC 350-6 and TRADOC 350-36, are authorized to travel off-post. Enlisted trainees in Phases V and V+ will adhere to policy established by Commander, 32 MED BDE (Encl 1). All initial entry enlisted trainees in Phases I through IV who reside on the installation are prohibited from leaving the installation except for official duty as determined by Commander, 32d MED BDE, or for authorized leave and pass

c. Use of Ride Share, Taxis, and Public Transportation. Effective immediately, all trainees (officer and enlisted) and NCOA students residing on JBSA-FSH are authorized to utilize ride share services, taxis, or public transportation, in addition to shuttle services provided by 32 MED BDE or the 502d Air Base Wing. Personnel utilizing ride share services, taxis, or other public transportation must comply with the current Force Health Protection policy, unit orders and policies, and any applicable State, County, or City requirements.

8. PERSONAL PROTECTIVE MEASURES.

a. Face Masks. Effective immediately, MEDCoE personnel who have completed a full COVID-19 vaccine series (e.g., two weeks beyond second dose of Moderna /Pfizer or first dose of Johnson & Johnson vaccines), are no longer required to wear a mask indoors or outdoors in MEDCoE or JBSA facilities. Masks are required in health care settings, on public transportation, or in airports, in accordance with DEPSECDEF Memorandum, Updated Mask Guidance for Vaccinated Persons, 13 May 2021. Personnel exempted from masking requirements pursuant to this paragraph must comply with the provisions of 8b, below, as well as the current Force Health Protection policy, unit orders and policies, and any applicable State, County, or City requirements when departing the installation. In addition, Service members will comply with requests of private businesses and owners of private residences to wear a mask when patronizing or visiting such locations.

(1) Verification Requirements. Service members exempted from masking requirements by paragraph 8a above are required to maintain a copy (physical or digital, e.g., a photo) of their vaccine card and carry a mask complying with the provisions of 8c, below, on their person at all times. Service members who do not have

a copy of their vaccine card on their person are required to wear a mask. Service members who avail themselves of the exemption from masking requirements may be required to show proof of vaccination. Personal verification by a service member regarding their own vaccination status is not a Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act (HIPAA) disclosure, and individuals may elect to continue mask wear in lieu of verifying their vaccination.

(2) Authorized Masks. Masks must fit properly, covering the mouth and nose and extending to the chin or below as well as to the sides of the face. Disposable masks, masks made with breathable fabric (such as cotton), masks made with tightly woven fabric (i.e. fabrics that do not let light pass through when held up to the light source), masks with two or three layers, and masks with inner filter pockets are authorized. Novelty or non-protective masks, masks with ventilation valves, and face shields are not authorized. Service members will not wear masks that have printed wording, profanity, racist, demeaning, or derogatory logos, script, or imagery. Service members will not use old uniforms for modified facial masks due to the permethrin and wrinkle-free uniform treatment. All Army-issued masks are authorized. All other masks must be of subdued colors that conform to the uniform. Disposable masks that are white or light blue are authorized if cloth masks are unavailable. Regularly launder or clean cloth masks, and replace disposable masks when soiled.

(3) Exceptions to Mask Wear. In conjunction with social distancing, and in addition to those exceptions authorized in DEPSECDEF and SECDEF Memorandums (Encls 2 and 3) and effective Commander, JBSA, Memoranda, service members who are not fully vaccinated are exempt from wearing a mask under the following conditions:

(a) Multi-occupancy barracks rooms. Facemasks are not required while service members are residing in multiple occupancy barracks rooms and with their assigned roommates. If an individual that does not reside in the barracks room enters, then all individuals will don masks until that individual exits.

(b) Isolated Work Space. When an individual is alone in an office with floor-to-ceiling walls.

(c) Personal vehicles and residence. Service members are not required to wear a facemask when alone in a personal vehicle, when travelling with household members, or when in a personal residence.

(d) Food and drinks. For brief periods when eating and drinking, while maintaining distancing in accordance with CDC guidelines and instructions from commanders and supervisors.

(e) Security Checks. For security purposes, service members will remove face coverings at installation access points and other checkpoints as directed by military police, security forces, and contracted security personnel.

(f) When necessary to reasonably accommodate an individual with a disability.

(g) Individual Exercise. Participation in individual outdoor activities within the local area (e.g., running, biking, hiking, walking, swimming in pools or lakes) and other forms of exercise or outdoor recreation is authorized. Participating personnel must adhere to social distancing requirements at all times. If such adherence to social distancing requirements is not possible, personnel must wear a cloth facemask. Field training exercises should include risk mitigation measures for heat when wearing a facemask.

(h) Graded person only while conducting an ACFT event.

(i) Shaving, showering, or conducting personal hygiene.

(j) Airway, head, and neck assessments and examinations as a necessary part of medical training described in the programs of instruction. Examiner will wear a mask and eye protection at a minimum, and a face shield if available.

(k) As necessary for medical evaluation and treatment.

(l) When necessary to accomplish a religious ceremony.

(m) When clear or unrestricted visualization is necessary for safe and effective operations.

(n) When primary aircrew during critical phases of flight, or during oxygen use in flight.

(o) Drill Sergeants and Squad Leaders, when outside, are authorized to remove their facemask while marching Soldiers in a formation. In order to mitigate the risk of transmitting COVID-19 through respiratory droplets, leaders must maintain a minimum distance of 6 feet from the formation and face forward at all times when calling cadence.

(p) Public speaking events where speaker is greater than 12 feet from the listeners. This includes Facebook live events, military ceremonies, graduations, and classroom instruction.

b. Social Distancing. All personnel will practice social distancing as per latest MEDCOE Force Health Protection Policy published by the Office of the Command Surgeon.

c. Personal Hygiene. Service members will practice adequate regimented personal hygiene measures including frequent hand washing or sanitizing per latest MEDCOE Force Health Protection Policy as published by the Office of the Command Surgeon.

9. TRAVEL AND RESTRICTION OF MOVEMENT (ROM) POLICY. Service members will adhere to the latest Force Health Protection (FHP) Policy published by the Office of the Command Surgeon for both policy and approval authority.

10. SOCIAL GATHERING AND MILITARY CEREMONY POLICY. Personnel hosting or attending social gatherings off base will follow city and county restrictions on the size of gatherings. Gatherings on base in workplaces or base facilities (e.g., club, park, golf course, etc.) for official unit functions (e.g., retirement ceremonies, changes of command, commander's calls, etc.) and social events will not exceed the maximum occupancy of the building, room, and/or pavilion authorized by SECDEF Memorandum dated 29 April 21 (Encl 4) as determined by the installation HPCON. At HPCON B, the maximum occupancy authorized by SECDEF Memorandum dated 29 April 21 is 50%.

11. TELEWORK POLICY. COVID-19 situational telework policy continues to be effective for MEDCoE. Return to workplace discussions are beginning as COVID vaccinations increase, procedures normalize, and disease burden remains controlled. An organized transition will assess the following the three indicators: community trends, capacity to treat, and capacity to monitor. MEDCoE supervisors will continue to remain empathetic, flexible and communicate with individuals on telework status. Supervisors will objectively evaluate productivity on all staff to include those on telework status. The number of persons who may occupy office space at any time will not exceed the maximum occupancy of the building, room, and/or pavilion authorized by SECDEF Memorandum dated 29 April 21 as determined by the installation HPCON. At HPCON B, the maximum occupancy authorized by SECDEF Memorandum dated 29 April 21 is 50%. Assessment of mission objectives may direct increased personnel in the workplace. Hybrid schedules will accommodate staff wishing to return to workplace sooner. As vaccination numbers increase, and disease burden lessens in the community, leaders and supervisors will be reevaluating individual telework statuses.

12. INDIVIDUAL DUTY. Persons subject to this General Order have the individual duty to know and understand the prohibitions contained herein.

13. UNIT COMMANDER AND SUPERVISOR RESPONSIBILITY. Commanders and Supervisors are charged with ensuring the personnel within their organizations are

briefed on the responsibilities and prohibitions contained in this order. Commanders and Supervisors are expected to exercise sound discretion and good judgment in enforcing this order.

14. PUNITIVE ORDER. This order is punitive. Any violation may result in punishment under the Uniform Code of Military Justice or adverse administrative action under applicable laws and regulations.

15. INVESTIGATION AND DISPOSITION OF OFFENSES. Alleged violations of this order will be reported to me immediately, in writing, with a copy furnished to the MEDCoE Staff Judge Advocate (SJA). Commanders will promptly inquire into or otherwise investigate violations of this order. Disposition authority over violations of this order alleged to have been committed by 1) any commissioned or warrant officer, 2) a noncommissioned officer in the grade of E-8 or above, or 3) a Drill Sergeant, is withheld to CG, MEDCoE, in accordance with Commander's Policy #9 (Encl 5).

16. WAIVERS AND AMENDMENTS. Requests for waivers or amendment of any provision of this General Order must be submitted through the chain of command to me for decision.

17. EFFECTIVE DATE. This General Order is effective immediately. It will remain in effect until superseded, rescinded, or altered by me.

DENNIS P. LEMASTER
Major General, U.S. Army
Commanding

7 Encls
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6. Memorandum, USD (P&R), 20 Nov 20
7. Memorandum, SECARMY, 24 Feb 21.