

Air Force Reserve (AFR) COVID-19 Q&As Ready for Review current a/o 20 Apr 20

In an effort to take care of Airmen and spread facts and not fear, Air Force Reserve senior leaders are encouraging all Reserve Citizen Airmen to visit the Air Force's COVID-19 web page (<https://www.af.mil/News/Coronavirus-Disease-2019/>) and the Air Force Reserve Command's COVID-19 web page (<https://www.afrc.af.mil/COVID-19/>) for the latest on the virus and how it is impacting the service. These sites contain the latest news, travel advisories, frequently asked questions, COVID-19 affected activities and gatherings, health protection measures, and helpful resource links from the Centers for Disease Control, Department of State, Department of Defense, Department of Health and Human Services and other organizations. COVID-19 Q&As will be updated as related circumstances evolve.

RSSB and RDEDB

Q1. If members were selected for RSSB or RDEDB courses that get cancelled due to COVID-19 concerns, will members receive an automatic deferment to attend next year or must they compete again via the RSSB or RDEDB process?

A1: The Air Force Reserve will make a determination regarding deferments once there is a better understanding of the scope and magnitude of potential course cancellations.

Face Mask Coverings

Q2: What is the specific guidance concerning face masks for military members and their families?

A2: Effective immediately, based on the guidance from the Centers for Disease Control (CDC), the Department of Defense and the Department of the Air Force, all individuals on DoD property, installations and facilities are required to wear cloth face covering when they cannot maintain six feet of physical distance in public areas or work centers (does not include or apply to a service member/family member's personal residence on a military installation). This includes all:

Total Force Military Personnel

DoD civilian employees (including Non-Appropriated Fund (NAF) Employees) - subject to the conditions set out below

Family Member

DoD Contractors

All other individuals on DoD property, installations and facilities

Q3: Is there any guidance on the type or color of the mask? Does it need to match my uniform?

A3: The military departments will issue guidance on uniform wear for service members. Pending that guidance, service members will wear cloth coverings in neutral colors. CDC guidance on use and instructions for homemade face coverings (including no-sew options using common household items)

may be found here: <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/prevent-getting-sick/diy-cloth-face-coverings.html>

A cloth face covering shall extend above the nose without interfering with eyewear, and below the chin to cover the mouth and nostrils completely. It shall fit snugly, yet comfortably against the front and sides of the face and be secured (e.g., by being tied in place or with ear-loops). Additional guidance on the wearing of the face mask may be found here: <https://www.af.mil/News/Coronavirus-Disease-2019/>

Q4: Since wearing a mask is a requirement, will they be issued or will funding be available to purchase masks?

A4: At this time guidance for funding and issuing is being developed and will be posted when it becomes available.

Q5: I don't feel confident that the cloth mask is going to protect against COVID-19. Will military members get a more industrial mask, for example the N95 respirators?

A5: Medical personnel protective equipment such as N95 respirators or surgical masks will not be issued for this purpose as these will be reserved for the appropriate personnel.

Q6: I have a medical problem that prevents me from wearing a mask. Can I get an exception to this requirement?

A6: Exceptions to this requirement, for reasons such as impracticality, health, or other basis, may be approved by commanders, supervisors, and contracting officers, as appropriate. Exceptions should be documented in writing, and a copy provided to the recipient and the next higher level of command or supervision.

Promotions

Q7. Can I get promoted if I'm showing not current for dental and/or medical requirements and cannot get current due to COVID-19? What about enlisted PME waivers? What about all other promotion requirements? What can be waived, exempted, CC discretion?

A7. We are aware of these challenges, therefore we are drafting exceptions to policy due to COVID-19. Exceptions will be publicized as soon as approved.

Q8: Can wings nominate people for STEP promotion if they meet all promotion eligibility criteria other than testing?

A8: We have drafted an exception to policy request to address concerns for those of you who were enrolled in a PME course and it was cancelled and those who are virtually enrolled in EPME and cannot test due to facility closure. We understand there may be some promotion eligibility concerns, so we are working to get this out to you as soon as possible. **Note:** All Distance learning course are still operational and members can sign up.

Bonus/Incentives

Q9: If not all participation requirements are met by the end of the anniversary window, will the service member be paid a pro-rated amount?

A9: When member completes rescheduled IDT period(s) then additional payments for that participation will be executed. **NOTE:** OSD (P&R) is working with all of the services (i.e., HQ USAF/REPP) to submit satisfactory R/R year legislative proposal and/or grant exceptions to policy related to participation and excusal impacts.

Career Development Courses

Q10: Will I get additional time to complete CDCs due to COVID-19?

A10: Air University applied a 90-day extension to 26,985 CDC enrollments AF-wide. While teleworking, it is imperative that Unit Training Managers (UTMs) and additional duty UTMs continue to monitor and manage training efforts.