



MANPOWER AND
RESERVE AFFAIRS

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MAR 10 2020

MEMORANDUM FOR CHIEF MANAGEMENT OFFICER OF THE DEPARTMENT OF
DEFENSE
SECRETARIES OF THE MILITARY DEPARTMENTS
CHAIRMAN OF THE JOINT CHIEFS OF STAFF
UNDER SECRETARIES OF DEFENSE
CHIEF OF THE NATIONAL GUARD BUREAU
GENERAL COUNSEL OF THE DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE
ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF DEFENSE FOR LEGISLATIVE
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ASSISTANT TO THE SECRETARY OF DEFENSE FOR PUBLIC
AFFAIRS
DIRECTORS OF THE DEFENSE AGENCIES
DIRECTORS OF THE DOD FIELD ACTIVITIES

SUBJECT: Department of Defense Guidance for Measured Responses to the Novel Coronavirus
Outbreak

The Department continues to monitor the spread of the novel coronavirus disease (COVID19) and its potential impact to our Service members and their families. The February 25, 2020, memorandum to the Military Departments and other Agencies emphasized the importance of following Centers for Disease Control (CDC) guidelines while also mitigating risk to our Service members, Defense civilians, contractors, and family members. There are strong policies in place to ensure that staff caring for our youngest family members in child development centers and family child care homes follow sound health and sanitation practices, to include frequent handwashing. DoDEA staff also follow the CDC guidelines with hand washing listed as the top recommendation from experts at the CDC to limit the spread of the virus.

In these uncertain times, I am compelled to emphasize to senior leaders in each of the Military Departments the absolute necessity of ensuring these policies are diligently practiced every day. Our responses to the COVID-19 outbreak must continue to be flexible and adaptable to this ever-changing health threat. Installation commanders have the authority to make risk-based decisions to protect Service members and their families. These measures may include closing facilities or limiting access to our child care programs. I am confident these decisions, if necessary, will be made with the utmost concern regarding the impact to families and to the mission.

Information on COVID-19 is available on the defense.gov website at <https://www.defense.gov/Explore/Spotlight/Coronavirus/>. We will also post information on Military OneSource at <https://www.militaryonesource.mil/>.

My staff is working with the Military Departments to continue to review options and to support military commanders, both inside and outside of the United States. Thank you for your careful attention to this matter.


Virginia S. Penrod
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