



# Air Force Press Release

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## **Kirtland increases Health Protection Condition**

**KIRTLAND AIR FORCE BASE, N.M.** – Kirtland today raised its Health Protection Condition level to C in response to the spread of COVID-19. The decision to implement a higher HPCON level was driven by the evolving public health response by state and local authorities, and the need to maintain our national security missions.

The Installation Commander, Col. David S. Miller, has directed the elevation of the condition level to align with existing precautionary measures, and education of base personnel in preventing a potential widespread outbreak.

HPCON C underlines the need for further implementation of robust social distancing by restricting access to the installation to mission-essential personnel only, to reduce/prevent the transmission of COVID-19. Prior to the implementation of HPCON C most base recreational facilities had been closed to limit virus spread. With today's directive, restrictions will be applied to Base Exchange and Commissary reducing access to active duty, retired personnel employed at Kirtland and base residents. The base pharmacies will remain open to all eligible.

“This was a very difficult decision,” says Col. David Miller, Kirtland Installation Commander, “but a necessary one to reduce person-to-person contact, virus transmission, to preserve our vital Kirtland missions.”

Additional measures also include limiting in-person meetings, extending use of telework for non-essential personnel, as well as restriction of movement for individuals who have recently traveled to impacted areas. In conjunction with state and local authorities there is a limit on gatherings of no more than five individuals and an instruction to stay-at-home unless mission-essential.

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## **Kirtland increases Health Protection Condition – 2**

Team Kirtland personnel should follow Center for Disease Control guidelines and avoid large gatherings, limit close contact with others, follow strict hygiene best practices such as vigorous hand-washing, disinfecting frequently touched surfaces and careful cleaning of common-use items/areas.

For the latest information on COVID-19, please see <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus>. For Kirtland specific information and updates, please download the Kirtland app or go to the Kirtland Facebook page at <https://www.facebook.com/KirtlandAirForceBase/>.