From: Mitchell, Anthony L Col USAF 8 MDG (USA)
To: Farmakis, Timothy G MSgt USAF (USA); Pickett, Lisa M CMSgt USAF 8 MDG (USA); Wagner, Andrew J Lt Col USAF 8 MDG (USA); Rubin, Richard M Lt Col USAF 8 MDG (USA); Micsunescu, Daniel S Lt Col USAF 8 MDG (USA); Moss, Lauren L TSgt USAF 8 MDG (USA); Teitelbaum, Aaron W SSgt USAF (USA); Lefrere, Cynthia Maj USAF 86 MDG (USA)
Subject: Close Contact testing clarification for 1st Sergeants and UHMs
Date: Tuesday, January 18, 2022 9:45:55 PM
Attachments: image001.png

WP Leaders,

BLUF: Recognizing the confusion regarding close contacts and testing the 8 MDG has recommended testing approach that is simple and meets intent of HHQ.

A: Current USFK guidance and 7AF FRAGO 1 to TASKORD 21-013 offer guidance regarding testing of close contacts. This guidance uses varied lexicons, as well as different strategies based upon vaccination status for close contact testing. Additionally, the use of either approach in a wholesale fashion limits the operational flexibility of commanders and unit leadership to manage risk while meeting the intent behind testing close contacts. The 8 MDG has reviewed both policies and acknowledge the need to offer a more direct testing strategy while also meeting the intent of 7AF and USFK policies to halt the spread of COVID. **The overall intent of USFK and 7AF directives is to ensure that close contacts are tracked and tested. The intent is met in the 8FW when members are tracked by PH and tested within the units using antigen testing.**

R: Recommend the following testing approach:

Close contacts will be identified during the unit based antigen test process or during contact tracing performed by 8 MDG Public Health.

Close contacts who are fully vaccinated per DoD policy and asymptomatic are recommended to have Day #3 antigen test in the unit and if negative then sent for a day #5 (48hr follow-up) PCR test at the MDG. This testing approach will meet intent of both USFK and 7AF recommendations and policy. Additionally, consistent with 7AF policy vaccinated and asymptomatic members can remain in health monitoring status to facilitate mission completion.

Alternative testing strategy using serial unit antigen tests 3 days apart as

described in USFK recommendations is a reasonable approach, if mission impact is a concern. Any concerns can be discussed with PH, Col Mitchell (Hawk), Lt Col Rubin (Bones) or Lt Col Micsunescu (Stitches).

There is no change to how unvaccinated personnel who are close contacts are managed. They are required to have full 10 day quarantine with Day 1/8/9 PCR testing.

Any member that becomes symptomatic *should* immediately quarantine/isolate and obtain testing within the unit with 48hr follow up PCR testing in the MDG before returning to duty.

Hawk Shirt, please disseminate recommendation to Unit First Sergeants and UHMs. This will hopefully simplify the approach units take to testing close contacts in a fashion that reduces the spread of COVID and maintains consistency across the wing. Please contact me with any questions or concerns.

V/R,
Hawk

Anthony L. Mitchell, Colonel, USAF, MC, SFS
Commander, 8th Medical Group
Kunsan AB, ROK (PACAF)
DSN: 315-782-5130