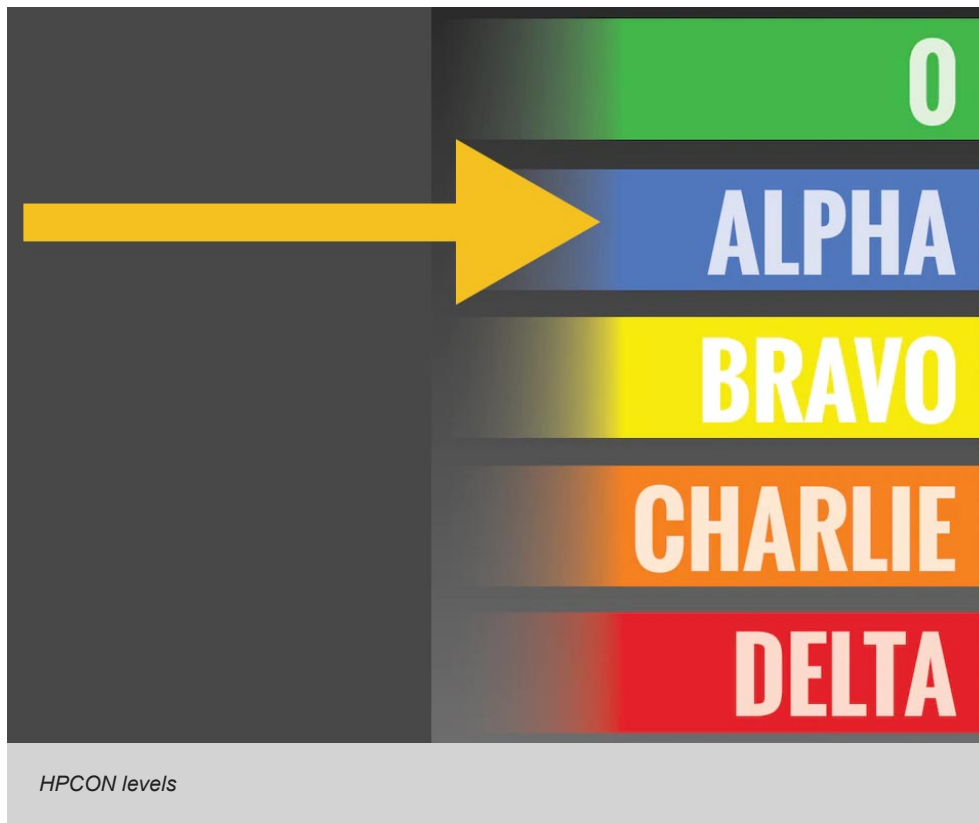


Carlisle Barracks shifts to Health Protection Condition Alpha

By Maj. Gen. David Hill, Acting USAWC Commandant 16 July 2021



Based on the current COVID-19 conditions, I will shift Carlisle Barracks to Health Protection Condition- Alpha on July 19, 2021. Since March 2020, we have made a series of transitions about how we live, work, and learn at Carlisle Barracks. Now, we move to a “new normal” that protects the health of the force while restoring academic, work-related, and social interactions. The new normal can be expected to include more telework than the pre-COVID environment, with the distinction that telework eligibility will be tied to position descriptions and management requirements.

HPCON-Alpha brings opportunity. It enables organizations to operate with 100 percent on-site personnel as the mission requires, and authorizes supervisors to begin planning for regular employee presence in the workplace. Additionally, this creates opportunity for full capacity for childcare services, restaurant and business services, and USAWC

Supervisors have been planning for return to face-to-face work, assessing their employees' telework eligibility. You can expect to hear from your supervisor about the planned return to the physical workplace, and may address relevant personal circumstances. USAWC supervisors will give employees at least 14 days notification prior to the date expected in the physical workspace. As we move forward, we will improve work outcomes within telework authorizations, learning from recent experience. Other Carlisle Barracks organizations will follow guidance of their higher headquarters.

I am confident in this decision, based on installation and regional health conditions and effective COVID mitigation measures. We can be optimistic that vaccination rates will continue to increase and COVID cases continue to fall. We will not, however, drop our guard. We will maintain vigilance, prevent a resurgence, and respond quickly to outbreaks.

The mask policy remains in place, in accordance with Army policy. If you are vaccinated, you do not need to wear a mask but may choose to do so. If you are not vaccinated, you must wear a mask inside all Carlisle Barracks buildings, other than homes, and outside when social distancing cannot be maintained. All people, regardless of vaccination status, will follow DoD policy by wearing a mask in medical, dental, and veterinary healthcare facilities and in child development centers. Per DoD policy, I have the authority to verify the vaccination status of military service members to ensure this matches with mask compliance. For purposes of determining whether a civilian employee must wear a mask on military installations, unmasked civilian employees may be asked to confirm vaccination status only if the supervisor has a reasonable basis to believe the unmasked employee has not been fully vaccinated, based on reliable evidence such as firsthand knowledge of voluntary employee statements.

Newcomers to Carlisle Barracks – staff, students and faculty, U.S. and international -- are following DoD guidelines for travelers from outside of the United States and from HPCON-Charlie locations in country.

The Dunham Army Health Clinic Team will continue to advise public health decisions, complete contact tracing and testing as required, and provide COVID Moderna 2-dose vaccinations every other Tuesday morning. Call 717.245.3400 and let the appointment clerk know you'd like to schedule a COVID vaccination. Dunham is authorized to vaccinate civilian and contract employees assigned to Carlisle Barracks, as well as TRICARE beneficiaries.

I strongly encourage all those that live and work on Carlisle Barracks and who remain unvaccinated to conduct a new conditions-based assessment of the COVID environment and the implications for families, work/seminar colleagues, and community. We are not COVID-free on Carlisle Barracks. As is happening across the nation, those testing COVID-positive have been unvaccinated. I urge you not to wait any longer. Contact Dunham Health Clinic at 717.245.3400 to make an appointment. Every member of the Carlisle Barracks community has a vital role in vigilance and cooperation, critical to our mission and community health.

v/r

MG David C. Hill

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