

News Release

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Public health emergency declared at forts Belvoir and Meade *All DC-area US Army installations elevate health protection conditions*

FORT LESLEY J. MCNAIR, D.C. - The commanding general of the Joint Task Force - National Capital Region and U.S. Army Military District of Washington declared a public health emergency at 11:59 p.m. today for the following U.S. Army MDW installations: Fort Belvoir, Virginia, and Fort George G. Meade, Maryland.

Simultaneously, the commanding general is also directing all MDW installations elevate to Health Protection Condition Charlie while holding the implementation of specific HPCON C measures pending further public health assessments.

A public health emergency grants commanders additional authorities to protect Department of Defense personnel and families, including testing service members and limiting access to military installations. Unless renewed, the declaration will expire after 30 days.

The Department of Defense Instruction 6200.03 "Public Health Emergency Management Within the DoD," and supplements, provides military commanders with policy applicable to the COVID-19 outbreak. Commanders review and update the health protection condition based on the risk level in the local community and in cooperation with local, state, or host nation guidance. HPCON Charlie is reflective of sustained community transmission with commensurate protective measures.

"Ensuring the health and safety of our Soldiers, Families and civilians is one of my greatest responsibilities," said Maj. Gen. Omar J. Jones IV, commanding general of the JTF-NCR and U.S. Army MDW. "We will continue to work with individual installations to make certain each post has capabilities to protect our people and mitigate the spread of the virus."

To determine the latest closures, postponements and cancellations at each post, visit the installation Facebook pages at:

--Fort Belvoir: <https://www.facebook.com/fortbelvoir/>

--Fort George G. Meade: <https://www.facebook.com/FtMeade/>

--Joint Base Myer-Henderson Hall/Fort Lesley J. McNair: <https://www.facebook.com/jbmhh/>

--Fort A.P. Hill: <https://www.facebook.com/FtAPHill/>

For more information regarding DoD Health Protection Condition Levels, visit:
<https://phc.amedd.army.mil/topics/campaigns/covid19/Pages/HPCON.aspx>

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For any media queries, please send an email to the U.S. Army Military District of Washington Communication Office at usarmy.mcnair.mdw.mbx.mediadesk-omb@mail.mil.