

May 17, 2021

Post-Vaccine Pilot Modification of Protective Measures (Change #1)

****Reviewed daily and subject to change****

Summary of Change 1

Updates the previous version of this memo issued March 12, 2021 due to revised Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) guidance on vaccinated individuals generally, and in healthcare settings specifically. This includes changes to mask and social distancing requirements for fully vaccinated residents and staff, conduct, visitation, and on-campus activities.

Overview

This memorandum provides updated guidance to both AFRH campuses for a pilot program to modify protective measures implemented during the COVID-19 pandemic in response to high vaccination rates among AFRH residents and updated CDC guidance. This memo describes changes that will permit more engagement, social interactions, and freedom of movement.

Maintaining Core Infection Prevention Protocols

All residents, staff (employees and contractors), and visitors MUST maintain core infection prevention protocols: wear masks and maintain at least 6 feet of social distancing in certain settings, wash or sanitize hands frequently, and complete sanitizing and screening steps when arriving in campus.

The CDC continues to endorse masks and social distancing even among fully-vaccinated individuals as additional protection against the virus. AFRH encourages all residents and staff to continue to wear masks and socially distance regardless of their vaccination status.

At all times, residents and staff must self-monitor for any symptoms associated with COVID-19 (i.e., fever or chills, shortness of breath, new loss of taste or smell, headache, fatigue) and if they occur, immediately self-isolate and notify the Wellness Center staff who will provide further instructions.

Residents and staff are encouraged to request COVID testing at the Wellness Center at any time, particularly after leaving campus and participating in activities that involve close contact with the general public. Testing is advised 3-5 days after exposure.

All are reminded that the vaccine, while being 95 percent effective in preventing symptomatic illness from COVID-19 during limited clinical trials, is not a complete shield against the disease. As the virus and the vaccine are both still very new, research continues to evolve, and new variants emerge, it is important not to take unnecessary risks and to maintain the core infection control protocols.

Conduct

Unvaccinated individuals must wear masks and maintain 6 or more feet of social distance at all times while on AFRH grounds. Failure to do so may result in disciplinary measures or exclusion from certain areas.

The decision or ability to be vaccinated, wear masks or other protective devices, may involve personal and private health or other factors. AFRH recognizes these situations and will continue to respect the privacy and health of all residents, staff, contractors, and visitors. AFRH will continue to promote practices that lead to a safe, respectful, and healthy environment for all.

As part of this respectful environment at AFRH, only supervisors and healthcare providers have a need to query any individual regarding wearing a mask or their vaccination status. Others should not query about vaccination status or wearing a mask.

Pilot Program Conditions

It is important to understand that AFRH priority remains to keep the two communities safe, and that some limits will remain in place and others may have to be restarted should the virus be reintroduced to either campus or if local community conditions become more dangerous. We are modifying some of these measures as a pilot, with the hope that conditions will continue to improve allowing us to advance. This is based on two key conditions:

1. **Local positivity rate**, as reported by CDC, must remain below 8 percent. Protective measures will be reintroduced above 8 percent until the rate again drops below 8 percent. Additionally, modifications may occur depending on local trends.

2. **Positive cases on campus.** If any resident, staff, or contractor has a confirmed positive case, protective measures will be implemented. To reduce the possibility of unvaccinated staff or contractors bringing the virus onto the campus, and preserve reopening measures, they will be tested every Monday or their first day returning to work. Additionally, random COVID testing of all residents and staff will continue.

Definitions

Fully vaccinated. Means two weeks have passed since the final dose of vaccine.

Quarantine vs Isolation. These terms have been used interchangeably during the pandemic but are different:

- Quarantine keeps someone who *might have been* exposed to the virus away from others.
- Isolation keeps someone who *is sick or tested positive without symptoms* away from others.

Localities AFRH consults the CDC county view positivity rates and other data available online at <https://covid.cdc.gov/covid-data-tracker/#county-view>. For Gulfport we consult Harrison County, MS. For Washington we consult Washington, DC as well as Prince George's and Montgomery counties in Maryland because they are so close to the campus.

Protocols

Masks and Social Distancing

Unvaccinated individuals must wear masks and maintain 6 or more feet of social distance at all times while on AFRH grounds.

Fully-vaccinated residents and staff are not required to wear masks or socially distance on AFRH grounds, except:

- Residents must wear masks while receiving individual services from staff, and only remove the mask when directed by the staff member providing the service.
- All staff, regardless of vaccination status, must wear masks while providing individual services to residents and at all times while on Assisted Living, Long Term Care, and Memory Support units. Staff must maintain social distance of at least 6 feet from others to the maximum extent possible.
- Fully-vaccinated residents may visit an Assisted Living, Long Term Care, or Memory Support unit other than their own, but must wear masks and maintain social distance throughout their

visit. Visits may need to be scheduled in advance due to space and staffing limitations and to aid contact tracing if needed.

Residents should limit the number in an apartment to 4 individuals.

Off-Campus Activities

Fully vaccinated residents and staff are encouraged to interact off-campus with fully vaccinated family and friends.

All residents and staff should make every effort to avoid off-campus areas with known high positivity rates or concentrations of people. These include restaurants, bars, shopping malls, events, and entertainment venues such as casinos and theaters. Look for places that are well-ventilated—outdoor is better than indoor.

Despite relaxation of local requirements on mask wearing, gatherings, and capacities, we encourage all residents and staff to continue observing these protocols at all times when off campus.

Amenities and Services

Residents may use AFRH amenities as described below while maintaining the core infection prevention protocols. Since residents and staff should not query each other on vaccination status, the safest practice is for all participants to follow infection prevention protocols, including physical distance and wearing masks. Unvaccinated individuals must wear masks and maintain 6 or more feet of social distance at all times while on AFRH grounds.

- **Amenities and common areas.** Clean hands when arriving and departing, avoid touching your face, and wipe touched equipment after use. These include:
 - Fitness center, bowling, swimming pool
 - Art, woodworking, crafts
 - Library, computer lab
 - Cards, games, puzzles—*Residents may organize games in communal rooms. Avoid games with passed cards or pieces.*
 - Chapel
 - Dining/Bar/Lounge

- **Personal services.** Staff will wear masks while providing individual services to residents. Residents will only remove their mask when directed by service providers. These include:
 - Physical and occupational therapy
 - Barbershop/hair salon
 - Medical care
 - Dental—*Vapor and aerosol-producing equipment (i.e., cavitron, polishing equipment, drills, sprays) will not be used, or will be supported with additional vacuum.*
 - Maintenance and housekeeping—*Campus Administrators may allow housekeeping services in resident rooms, provided that the cleaning staff shows proof of receiving the vaccine at least 2 weeks before entering the room.*

Quarantine

Fully vaccinated residents will be able to come and go without a requirement to quarantine upon return to campus. Unvaccinated residents must quarantine for 14 days and obtain a COVID test 5 days after returning to campus. While in quarantine, residents must limit their movements and interactions with others to essential activities only.

Leave and Travel

Travel increases your chance of spreading and getting COVID-19. If you are fully vaccinated and must take leave or travel, AFRH strongly recommends you take these actions to protect yourself and others from COVID-19:

- Check <https://covid.cdc.gov/covid-data-tracker/#county-view> prior to making any travel plans to avoid areas where the county positivity rate is above 8 percent.
- During travel, wear a mask over your nose and mouth, avoid crowds and stay 6 feet or more away from anyone not traveling with you, and wash or sanitize your hands often.
- After travel, self-monitor for symptoms; isolate yourself and contact the Wellness Center immediately if you develop any symptoms.

Contact the Wellness Center prior to your trip if you must travel internationally.

Shuttle Buses and Shared Vehicles

Drivers and passengers must sit so as to maintain 6 feet separation, wear masks at all times, and maximize ventilation.

Visitors

AFRH will continue to assume that visitors are unvaccinated and COVID-exposed. Campus Administrators may permit visitors outside the buildings and in designated areas inside the buildings, subject to the following:

- Visitors must wear masks and maintain social distance at all times while on AFRH grounds, except when alone in the resident's room or designated visitation room when both the resident and visitors are fully vaccinated and choose to have close contact and not wear masks. All must wear masks when staff are present.
- Campuses will explain the risks associated with visitation to residents and visitors so they can make an informed decision about participation.
- Visitors must remain in designated areas to minimize contact with other residents and staff.
- Indoor visits may need to be scheduled in advance due to space and staffing limitations and to aid contact tracing if needed.
- Visitors must follow core infection prevention protocols and participate in screening procedures.
- Indoor visitation for unvaccinated residents, or vaccinated residents in quarantine or isolation, will be limited to compassionate care situations as permitted by the Campus Administrator.

Volunteers

Campus Administrators may allow volunteers on campus for activities in Independent Living and common areas. Volunteers will not be permitted in Assisted Living, Long Term Care, and Memory Support at this time. Volunteers must wear masks and maintain social distance at all times while on AFRH grounds, and remain in designated areas.

Tours for Prospective Residents

Prospective residents who are vaccinated and submitted preadmission medical records will be allowed to tour the facilities. They will not be permitted in upper levels of care.

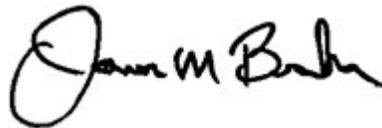
New Admissions

AFRH will admit new residents within the parameters of local positivity rates as outlined above. Incoming residents will follow protocols including testing for COVID-19 prior to arrival, having a

health screening upon arrival, and quarantining for 14 days if not fully vaccinated. Incoming residents will also follow all outlined rules if a companion is needed to assist them with their move-in, or if a moving company is needed.

Conclusion

AFRH will continue to assess the safety of the Home and local conditions, and further relax protective measures as the environment becomes safer. AFRH will continue to consult with and follow Department of Defense, CDC, and other applicable Federal guidance. The Department of Defense will continue to determine the HPCON status of AFRH. This pilot program is designed to promote a safe and healthy environment for residents and staff during this stage of the COVID pandemic. Our ultimate goal has been, and continues to be, to maintain a safe and healthy environment for our veteran residents.

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "James M. Branham". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial "J" and "B".

JAMES M. BRANHAM
Chief Operating Officer