

AUAB COVID-19 FAQs – Postured to Prevail!

(Current as of 4 January 2022)

Team AUAB, out of an abundance of caution concerning changes in the spread of COVID-19, as well as to encourage a high level of vigilance concerning public health and safety, we've taken into account commonly asked questions concerning AUAB's COVID-19 response and precautionary measures. Below are answers to frequently asked questions (FAQ) that are designed to provide additional insight and information to better equip you for pandemic living. As we continue on this journey together, we welcome your questions and concerns via the AUAB Feedback options found on the AUAB mobile application or email. While we are not immune to the virus, we can put up our best fight, together, one day at a time!

Quarantine and Isolation at AUAB

Q. What would happen if I come into close contact with someone who has tested positive for COVID-19?

A. Members at AUAB who come into close contact with someone who has tested positive for COVID-19, the quarantine requirement is based on vaccination status.

Option 1: If you received a booster, completed the primary Pfizer or Moderna vaccination series within the last six months, or completed the primary Johnson & Johnson vaccination series within the last two months, you are no longer required to in-home quarantine after having close contact with someone who has a confirmed case of COVID-19. However, if close contact has occurred, AUAB members are required to wear a mask for 10 days and undergo a COVID-19 test on the fifth day after the close contact. If you receive a positive test, an immediate transition to isolation will take place.

Option 2: If you completed your primary Pfizer or Moderna vaccination series more than six months ago and have not received a booster shot, or completed the Johnson & Johnson vaccination series and have not received a booster shot, then you are required to undergo a 5-day working Restriction of Movement (ROM), during which you are only authorized to go to your principal place of duty, assigned quarters, the Dining Facilities for take-out, the 379 EMDG clinic, and the AUAB COVID Operations Flight (COF) facility. AUAB members are also required to wear a mask for 10 days and undergo a COVID-19 test on the fifth day of the working ROM. If you receive a positive test, an immediate transition to isolation will take place.

Option 3: If you are not fully vaccinated, you are required to undergo a 5-day quarantine in the AUAB COF facility. Members are also required to wear a mask for 10 days and undergo a COVID-19 test on the fifth day after the close contact. If you receive a positive test, an immediate transition to isolation will take place; however, if the test results are negative, you will be released from quarantine on the sixth day.

Regardless of the Options: When in quarantine status, mask wear is required for the first 10 days after exposure. Click [here](#) for more information.

Q. What is isolation?

A. Isolation, according to the CDC, is a method to separate people infected with COVID-19 from those who are not infected. AUAB personnel who test positive for COVID-19 regardless of vaccination status, will immediately go into isolation and are to stay in a designated living quarter for at least a 5-day period. To ensure the safety and well-being of each member in isolation, medical personnel will evaluate each case individually, and could determine that more than 5 days in isolation is necessary. Following the 5-day isolation, a member must wear a tightly-fitted mask for an additional 5 days.

Q. What is quarantine?

A. Quarantine, according to the CDC, is a method to separate from the general population those who have come into close contact with a person infected with COVID-19. If placed in this status, the quarantine period varies pending one's vaccination status. Click [here](#) to learn more about the specifics on how the CDC now outlines the quarantining process.

Q. What is close contact?

A. Close contact occurs when you spend a cumulative total of 15 minutes or more over a 24-hour period within 6 feet of a person infected with COVID-19 (either laboratory-confirmed or clinically diagnosed).

Q. I'm traveling to AUAB soon. What do I need to know before I arrive? Will I be quarantined?

A. All personnel arriving at AUAB are subject to COVID-19 pre-arrival [guidance](#) published by the State of Qatar Ministry of Public Health. Prior to departing for AUAB, personnel should make contact with their gaining unit for instruction on how the installation will proceed with ensuring the member's transition is in alignment with this guidance. Fully vaccinated members arriving from a country that the host nation considers "green" are not required to quarantine. Non-fully vaccinated members arriving from "green" countries, and both fully vaccinated and non-fully vaccinated members arriving from "red" or "exceptionally red" countries are subject to certain quarantine and testing requirements. For the latest information on exceptions to policy, personnel should contact the squadron commander or senior enlisted leader at their deployed location.

Q. How do I receive food when I'm in quarantine?

A. Each organization is responsible for ensuring their members within quarantine receive meals, assistance, and resources while on quarantine. Members can expect to receive their food and needed items in a "home-delivery" style.

Q. My coworker is in quarantine. How can I give them supplies?

A. Units are encouraged to communicate with their members while in quarantine via text message or email and can drop off supplies to their personnel that are in quarantine via the unit's First Sergeant or designated representative. Members located in medical isolation can receive supplies through coordination between the unit First Sergeant and medical personnel.

Q. Do members in transient lodging have COVID-19?

A. Everyone arriving to AUAB as their final destination undergoes formal screening. Members are placed into quarantine in assigned quarters if required per State of Qatar Ministry of Public Health COVID-19 pre-arrival [guidance](#). Members are placed into isolation lodging if they test positive for COVID-19 during quarantine. Further, the installation is actively testing and monitoring all personnel to ensure that the wing maintains a healthy and safe environment for all who inhabit the base.

Vaccinations

Q. Where can I receive an approved vaccine?

A. Members at AUAB can contact the EMDG to schedule an appointment and learn more information about what vaccines are available. Additionally, a member can schedule an appointment online via the AUAB Single Source of Truth or by scanning the QR code displayed in various locations around the EMDG clinic.

Q. Am I eligible for a booster shot?

A. According to CDC guidance, booster shots are available to those over the age of 16. However, if you received and completed a Pfizer-BioNTech or Moderna vaccination series, a 6-month waiting period must take place before you can receive a booster shot; however, if you received Johnson & Johnson's Janssen vaccine, a 2-month waiting period after is required before you can receive a booster. Click [here](#) to learn more about booster vaccinations and details concerning additional research and data regarding booster shots.

Q. Can I return to work after receiving a booster shot?

A. Yes. The process for receiving a COVID booster is similar to the current process for receiving any vaccination that's associated with military readiness requirements. If you experience any symptoms or complications following your receipt of the vaccine, contact your medical provider or visit the EMDG for immediate assistance.

Mitigating the COVID-19 Risk

Q. Is there a threat of the virus coming on base? How many have been tested and how many confirmed cases do we have?

A. Becoming infected with COVID-19 on AUAB is possible; however, the installation, its members, and the host nation are taking every necessary precaution to limit the virus' spread and impacts to the community. Qatar has been and continues to remain aggressive in its precautionary methods. Statistics for Qatar are updated regularly at [Qatar's Ministry of Public Health](#).

Q. What is Al Udeid Air Base doing to mitigate risks across the base?

A. In accordance with AFCENT guidance, we've implemented measures across the base to keep our community safe and these measures are updated regularly on our website. We will continue to assess the

need for increased measures based on the situation.

Q. Should base personnel expect more restrictions?

A. The safety and well-being of personnel assigned to AUAB is of paramount importance. Wing leadership will do everything within their power to ensure people remain healthy, however this is a team effort. Base personnel can help by exercising good judgment and physical distancing. This is a dynamic situation, and we will make every effort to keep people up-to-date as we receive new information or enact any changes.

Q. How long will the physical distancing be necessary?

A. At this time no one knows how long this will last or what the new normal will look like. We are working to determine these things as more information becomes available. We will maintain our "slow the spread" measures and continue analyzing where the virus is found, if it is spreading, and who might be impacted.

Q. What should I do if I think I have Coronavirus?

A. Go directly to the EMDG or your local medical facility for treatment. Symptoms can be found here: <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/symptoms-testing/symptoms.html>.

Q. Will we be tested for COVID-19?

A. Yes, as necessary for diagnostic, screening, and/or surveillance purposes.

Q. How much time does it take from the time a person is infected until they are not contagious and can return to work?

A. That will be determined based off each individual's case, but CDC evidence supports releasing the member back to their unit as long as it has been 10 days following onset of symptoms.

Q. Am I required to wear a face mask at AUAB?

A. Yes. All individuals on AUAB will wear masks covering both nose and mouth. **Exceptions:**

- a) Outdoors *with proper distance*
- b) In a room alone
- c) In a vehicle *alone*
- d) In assigned quarters
- e) Actively eating or drinking
- f) Required personal protective equipment precludes wearing a facial covering
- g) In the gym on socially distanced and *specially-marked* cardio machines only

Movements (PCS/TDY/Leave/Deployment)

Q. If there are additional cases of Coronavirus in Qatar will it impact upcoming rotational pivots?

A. The safety and well-being of personnel assigned to AUAB is of paramount importance. Wing leadership will do everything within their power to ensure people remain healthy. This is a very dynamic situation, and we will make every effort to keep people up-to-date as we receive new information. Disruptions to transportation movement caused by DOD travel restrictions will be mitigated as much as possible. All members should work through their chain of command to stay up-to-date on any changes.

Force Support (Gym, mail, food, lodging)

Q. Is there a mobile app that can be downloaded for up-to-date base information?

A. There is a USAF Connect app that can be downloaded from either the [Apple App Store](#) or [Google Play](#). This Application is a "one-stop shop" for base resources. Once downloaded, users will have the ability to select 379 AEW from a drop-down menu. Within USAF Connect, you can find base directories, emergency contacts, COVID-19 policy updates, installation announcements, base shuttle schedules, and social media links. USAF Connect also provides hours for dining facilities, restaurants, coffee shops, and other base amenities.

Q. Are all stores on base open?

A. As we continue to combat the spread of COVID-19, some services across the wing may be impacted (i.e., occupancy allotments or even closure). Please review the latest [AUAB Guidance](#) for specifics regarding the wing's current posture on MWR and/or store operations.

Q. Are the gyms open?

A. The base fitness centers are currently open 24/7.

Q. Is mail turned off?

A. The Post Office is currently operating under normal hours.

Mental & Spiritual Fitness

Q. What can Airmen do to ensure they stay mentally and spiritually healthy during this time?

A. If you are having difficulties coping during this time, your Helping Agency Team is here to help. Below are resources all base personnel are encouraged to take advantage of:

CHAPEL SERVICES: Counseling services and worship services are currently offered at Victory Chapel. Call 455-2427 for counseling over the phone. In addition to worship services, online services are available via Facebook live at AUAB Victory Chapel.

MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES:

- Contact a mental health professional at DSN 455.5227.
- Taking Care of Your Mental Health: <https://www.who.int/teams/mental-health-and-substance-use/mental-health-and-covid-19>

OTHER RESOURCES: Contact the national suicide prevention hotline by dialing 1-2-3 from any AUAB DSN phone.

Off Base Travel and Restrictions

Q. Is the base open for off base travel?

A: To ensure force protection and manage risk to the installation, the base will operate under the conditions of **open, limited, or closed**. Complete details regarding these conditions are noted on page 5 of the installation's COVID Policy Guidance. Details concerning if and when these postures change will be available as required.

Open: Individual unit commanders will determine who can go off base, when, and where. The threat posed by the pandemic is minimal and there are no additional requirements imposed to travel on- and off-base beyond those detailed in AUAB Instruction.

Limited: The threat posed by the pandemic to both AUAB and our host nation is moderate; however, some travel modifications may exist pending one's vaccination status, as well as local guidance. Fully vaccinated personnel are authorized to continue off-base travel at the discretion of their unit commander. Personnel that are not fully vaccinated may only travel off base for mission critical purposes with an exception to policy granted by an authorized official in their chain of command.

Closed: The threat posed by the pandemic to both AUAB and our host nation is significant, necessitating extreme constraints. Travel on- or off-base is generally prohibited and, when necessary for mission critical reasons, requires an exception to policy granted by the wing commander.

NOTE: All personnel when traveling off base, regardless of vaccination status, must wear a mask and carry their CDC COVID-19 vaccination card.

Q. What is the process for off-base travel?

A. All newly assigned rotational and permanent party members are restricted to the installation (except Command-Sponsored personnel) until they have immigrated into Qatar, registered in the Defense Biometric Identification System (DBIDS), and completed all in-processing requirements. Unit commanders log and ensure 100% accountability for all personnel at all times and off-base travel during an open status is managed by unit commanders.

Q. What about off-base driving?

A: Personnel driving off base will carry their valid stateside driver's license. ALL travelers will carry their ID card, CAC, blue/red stamped orders, Host Nation Coordination Cell's (HNCC) "I am an American" card, CDC COVID-19 vaccination card, and the EHTERAZ-exemption memo. At least one member in the travelling party will carry an operable cellular phone capable of calling AUAB. Each vehicle traveling off

base will contain Off-Base Driver's and Vehicle Accident Checklists. Unit commanders are responsible for driver training and safety. The 379 AEW will not provide this training.

Q. The State of Qatar is requiring everyone to download the EHTERAZ app to their phones for COVID-19 tracking purposes. Are military members required to install this app?

A. U.S. members and Coalition forces partners are not required to utilize the EHTERAZ app. HNCC received guidance from International Foreign Affairs at GHQ with the approval for exemption for all identified U.S. Forces (military members, DOD civilian employees, command sponsored family members, and U.S. citizen contractors) and Coalition forces partners assigned to AUAB and Camp As Saliyah (CAS), to include those living off-base. Members approved for off-base travel should work with their supervisors to obtain the required exemption form prior to traveling off base.

Q. Can I order and pick up food outside the gate?

A. If the base is in an OPEN or LIMITED status and you have approval from your unit commander, you can pick up food.

Q. What if I lose my CAC off base?

A. Personnel who lose their CAC while off base must report it to a Host Nation police department and obtain a police report. In order to gain a police report they must call the HNCC and receive a letter validating that they are a member supporting AUAB or military service. To gain access to the base, personnel must present their police report at the gate and be escorted by HNCC to ESFS to fill out a lost ID report, then to PERSCO to gain a new CAC.