



DEPARTMENT OF THE AIR FORCE
501ST COMBAT SUPPORT WING (USAFE)



MAR 24 2020

MEMORANDUM FOR 501 CSW ALL PERSONNEL

FROM: 501 CSW/CC

SUBJECT: COVID-19 Message to Airmen - Update 1

As you know, COVID-19 cases continue to increase across Europe. As of today, 24 March, I am directing new measures across the 501st Combat Support Wing to fight this pandemic. In line with Prime Minister Boris Johnson's announcement last night, we will significantly restrict the way we do business across our bases, effective immediately.

First, I need you to stay home. Unless your unit has deemed you mission essential, I need our service members, civilians and families to stay home. You should only go out for essential needs, such as retrieving basic necessities or attending to medical needs. Only one member of your family should go out, if possible. I understand that there are single parents, spouses of deployed members, and other exceptions who must bring their children with them. In those cases, I would ask that you keep your kids close, and have them keep their hands to themselves.

Second, when you are conducting these essential functions, I need you to practice disciplined social distancing. Stay at least 6 feet away from others, avoid close conversations, and help us protect our essential workers by giving them space. In all our facilities, you will see markings where you line-up to help practice social distancing. Please adhere to these guidelines.

You should not be going out anywhere you will come into contact with other people, or inviting people into your home. Nobody outside your family should be in your house, except for emergency care or services. This is not the time to have your friends or neighbors over for dinner, and this is not the time for your children to play with their friends. Effective immediately, I have directed all playgrounds on our 501st bases closed. If you go out to exercise or walk, please practice disciplined social distancing and stay at least 6 feet away from anyone you might encounter.

I understand many of you have asked about corona virus testing. At this time, we are not able to test our entire population. However, practicing self-isolation and social distancing is more effective than testing to prevent the spread of the virus. Even if you were to test negative, by the time you get that result, you may have been exposed. The best way to prevent further spread is simply to stay home.

Finally, as many of our children begin virtual learning platforms for school, and some of our personnel continue telework, our communications teams will be working diligently to mitigate any excess strain on our networks and ensure we provide the best capability possible. Between 0800 and 1500 is not the time to stream videos or online gaming. Please respect the needs of our community and save the bandwidth for those that need it.

PATHFINDERS ~ LIGHT THE WAY

I know these are trying times and we are asking a lot of you and your family members. But this is how we keep our community safe, maintain mission readiness, and do our part to prevent further spread of the corona virus on our 501st installations across the UK and Norway. Please stay at home, practice disciplined social distancing, keep in touch with your chain of command, and look to our official wing information sources. It is critical that we fully honor the efforts of both our host nations and our U.S. government to combat COVID-19.

Thank you for your continued patience, understanding, and commitment to our wing. We WILL get through this together, and we will continue to LIGHT THE WAY!

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Kurt A. Wendt". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first letters of each word being capitalized and prominent.

KURT A. WENDT, Colonel, USAF
Commander