

RECOMMENDATIONS FOR IMPLEMENTATION OF IN-MISSION 5-DAY QUARANTINE PERIOD FOR CONTINGENT UNIFORMED PERSONNEL¹

Updated: 1 April 2022

INTRODUCTION

Quarantine requirements for contingent Uniformed Personnel (UP), to reduce the risk of introduction of COVID-19 from one country to another, have been updated. This document provides guidance to TCCs/PCCs on the principles regarding the 5-day quarantine period that is to be implemented for contingent military and police uniformed personnel upon arrival in a mission. This revised policy is to be implemented as of 1 April 2022.

NB: Please note that for the individual uniformed personnel (IUP), apart from mandatory pre-deployment testing, any other requirements (e.g. post-arrival in-mission quarantine) have been delegated to the mission leadership locally and such policy may therefore differ from mission to mission for IUPs.

MINIMUM ELEMENTS OF ROUTINE 5-DAY IN-MISSION QUARANTINE FOR CONTINGENT UNIFORMED PERSONNEL

As of April 1, 2022, upon arrival to the mission, contingent police/military uniformed personnel should quarantine for 5 days. At the end of the 5 day period, a COVID-19 antigen test may be conducted, and if negative, the personnel can be released from quarantine.

The following provides the minimum elements that must be implemented throughout the routine 5-day quarantine period for contingent uniformed personnel. There should be strict adherence to the following guidance.

Note: Pre-deployment and post-deployment quarantine is no longer mandatory but optional for TCCs/PCCs.

These minimum elements to be implemented for this 5-day in-mission quarantine period are:

- After arrival to the quarantine center, keep quarantined individual's movement outside the quarantine space to an absolute minimum. The quarantined individuals should be totally isolated and kept strictly separated from the rest of the military, civilian and the local population during the quarantine period.
- Do not add more individuals to an existing quarantine cohort after the 5-day quarantine clock has started. Avoid mixing those individuals who are undergoing routine quarantine, with individuals quarantined due to exposure to a COVID-19 case.
- Medical evaluation and care should be performed inside or near the quarantine area.
- All meals should be served inside the quarantine space, and dining should be in small cohorts of no more than 30 individuals, and with adequate 2 meters distance between chairs.

¹ Note that these recommendations pertain specifically to routine incoming / exiting quarantine for uniformed personnel, and is not in reference to quarantine period related to a specific exposure to a COVID-19 case.

- Hand hygiene stations with soap and water as well as alcohol-based hand rubs should be readily available.
- Ventilation inside the quarantine facility should be a minimum of 60 l/s per patient. Where possible, there should be windows to help with natural ventilation.
- If single rooms for those under quarantine are not possible, then cohort small groups of individuals in a large well-ventilated room with at least 2 meters (6 feet) of personal space assigned to each individual in all directions
- Maintain at least 1-2 meter space between individuals at all times through physical distancing strategies and other environmental engineering solutions.
- Symptoms of individuals under quarantine should be closely monitored. Perform verbal screening of symptoms and temperature checks twice daily for all individuals.
- For any individual that develops COVID-19 symptoms (e.g. fever, coughing or shortness of breath) during this quarantine period: immediately put a medical mask on them, place them under medical isolation right away, and follow protocol for management of suspect case including evaluation for possible testing, and contact tracing with subsequent quarantine of exposed individuals. Such individuals must be detected ASAP and moved to an isolation area.
- Environmental cleaning and disinfection procedures must be followed consistently and correctly, including daily cleaning and disinfection of frequently touched surfaces, cleaning and disinfection of bathrooms and toilets. Proper waste management should also be in place.
- At the end of the 5 day period, a COVID-19 antigen test may be conducted, and if negative, the uniformed personnel can be released from quarantine.
- To avoid any further spread of COVID-19, all uniformed personnel exiting the mission country must be screened for symptoms prior to exit / shortly before flight to ensure that they are all free of any COVID-19 symptoms and fever before leaving the mission area/country. All such records of screening of temperature and symptoms check before exit must be recorded for future audit.
- In all circumstances, any local host country directives should be adhered to, if more conservative than the above requirements.