

Fort Belvoir Facebook COVID-19 April 30 Town hall Recap

This is not a verbatim transcript

Question: What happens when someone tests positive in a food establishment?

COL Michael Greenberg: We immediately close down the facilities in question. We do expedited tracing so that individuals who were exposed are notified. We do a professional cleaning, both fogging and wipe downs. Then we have a public health professional conduct a health assessment. Public health professionals visit all of our sites, making sure they continue to follow the CDC guidelines, making sure our food employees are wearing face coverings, have their protective gear on, and those who are working on the registers are not handling food.

Question: When will FBCH resume elective surgeries?

CAPT Cynthia Judy: The Virginia Governor announced in a press conference that he plans to ease restrictions on elective surgeries and dental procedures beginning tomorrow. I've gotten a lot of questions about that. I just want to be clear, he made that statement and then he also directed that facilities develop and implement guidelines to ensure the safety of patients and healthcare workers while maintaining adequate supply of personal protective equipment. So Fort Belvoir Community Hospital, is working with the National Capital Region on what a recovery plan would look like for COVID. That's obviously going to be a phased recovery plan. And by recovery, I mean, recovery of services, not recovery of patient's. Okay, we will continue to do all of that. The phased reopening plan or recovery plan will mean that we're going to bring back services in the future, it's not going to happen as quickly as May 1st. And as we reopen those services, I'll update you through these town hall meetings, as well as on our webpage and our social media sites. So more to follow. But we're working on that plan for the entire National Capital Region to see when we can start bringing some of those back, but certainly, dental procedures and electric surgery are up there on the forefront of our mind.

Question: How do I contact the EFMP program during COVID-19 operations?

CAPT Cynthia Judy: Our phone number for EFMP, the exceptional family member program, is 571-231-1054.

Question: My husband is active duty and I'm a working civilian spouse. My company is asking me to go back to work on May 4. When can we expect to see why is CDC to open back up?

COL Michael Greenberg: If you're not a part of the vital workforce, you will need to find an alternate daycare facility because we will not be accepting additional children by then.

Question: When will barbershops and salons open?

COL Michael Greenberg: I'm not going to tell you a date, but we are getting closer to that option. Okay, so it could be here in the next couple weeks.

Question: When can we return library books or band instruments to the schools?

Fort Belvoir Elementary School: We don't yet have permission to do any of those things. But please know that our central office folks are working really hard to come up with protocols that will allow us to return things to the school building and for us to get those things back. If you're moving tomorrow, call and we'll get that message and we'll figure out a way to get those things back. But if you're moving in June or July, just hang on because we should be getting those protocols soon so that we can facilitate the safe return of equipment and get things back to you.

Question: Can we expect frequent town halls in the future after the pandemic?

COL Michael Greenberg: Yes, not as frequent, but potentially monthly.

Question: What is going on the 500 block buildings?

COL Michael Greenberg: That is a quarantine and isolation facility. This is a place for folks who are quarantined or isolated who do not have a house with a separate bathroom or separate bedroom; or for Service members who are living in the barracks who need isolation of quarantine

Question: When will the gyms, basketball courts, skate parks open?

COL Michael Greenberg: In the next two weeks, we will have a transition plan or a rollout plan for the community as we do a phased approach of opening back up the installation.

Question: Can the Lieber and Kingman gates be opened?

Mr. Frank Hentschel: We don't have a date right now as to when we're going to open these gates. We're in the planning stages of our transition.

Question: Are taxis, Uber and Lyft allowed on the installation?

Mr. Frank Hentschel: Yes. They do however, have to come through the Tulley gate entrance, and use the commercial lane.

Question: Why was the switch from Lieber to Tulley made?

Mr. Frank Hentschel: As the Health Protection condition changed, the garrison determined that Tulley gate would be a better suited for any possible access control changes.

Question: With the DMV is being closed under the Department of Homeland Security as announced there would be further action extensions to the REAL ID requirements. Would it be possible to reevaluate the requirement for real IDs for visitor passes?

Mr. Frank Hentschel: The authority to reevaluate the REAL ID requirements is the Office of the Provost Marshal General and to this date they have not altered or changed this requirement. You can use a birth certificate or a passport for identification.

Question: Is the hospital pharmacy doing refills now?

CAPT Cynthia Judy: It is important activate the prescription in advance. Normally refills are done at the PX pharmacy, but I know that in some cases when people are activating that prescription in advance, they are using that curbside pharmacy to do some refills. So that's something if you use that phone line to activate your pharmacy, you can have that discussion at that time.

Question: Is the passport office open?

Mr. Kevin Rennick: Under our current HPCON level, the Fort Belvoir passport office is closed. However, you can go to the Fort Belvoir website, click on the military personnel division, and there's a link for the passport office. The website has information that will assist you in getting additional information regarding passports.

Question: Can we put one way traffic aisles in the Commissary?

COL Michael Greenberg: We will not be making the aisles one way. We are doing a number of things that should help with social distancing. The aisles are very well marked and we are limiting the number of people in the commissary. We are seeing a lot more folks coming in the afternoon evenings. People have thanked me for recommending that people shop later in the day. The commissary is a lot less busy in the afternoon and evening.

Question: Is the elementary school still planning to move the schools this year?

Fort Belvoir Elementary School: The answer is yes, we are moving full steam ahead. There's an Request for Proposal out now for the movers and our central office folks are heavily working with us to make sure the move goes really smoothly. We're excited that it actually in some cases, it'll be a little easier because we don't have it many people in the building right now so we can move forward with some of the things that need to get done in order to prepare for the move.

Question: When will the Education Center open?

COL Michael Greenberg: There will be a full rollout plan based on conditions and based off of and phasing.

Question: How come Fort Belvoir Community Hospital won't patients a second time to see if they're still positive?

CAPT Cynthia Judy: The answer to that question is the test is used to diagnose a patient to see if they have COVID. What the test doesn't do is tell you whether or not that person is still infectious. So the CDC has recommendations for when to release somebody from isolation and quarantine. And the majority of people can discontinue quarantine using that time-based method. So fever free for three days and at least seven days since that positive test, and symptoms were onset and improvement of those symptoms. That's the best way for somebody to be released from isolation and quarantine.