

Fort Belvoir Facebook Virtual Town Hall Q&A Recap

July 9, 2020

This is not a verbatim transcript. Questions and answers during town hall may be edited for clarity.

Participants:

- COL Michael Greenberg, Garrison Commander, Fort Belvoir
- CAPT Cynthia Judy, Director, Fort Belvoir Community Hospital
- Dr. Nardos King, Region 3 Executive, Fairfax County Schools
- Mr. George Dickson, Director, Family, Morale, Welfare and Recreation
- Mr. Frank Hentschel, Director, Emergency Services
- Mr. Kevin Rennick, Director, Human Resources

Question: Is there a timeline for when information about specific safety protocols for schools will be released?

Dr. Nardos King: We don't have all the information yet. But the School Board has decided the students must wear masks while in school and on the school bus.

Question: Will technology be provided to students?

Dr. Nardos King: All students will be provided the technology they need to access school services.

Question: Will FCPS be able to provide transportation services to new families?

Dr. Nardos King: If you live on post and attend one of your assigned schools, transportation will be provided. Parents exercising their right to send their child to a different, must provide transportation.

Question: If children live in temporary lodging and attend zone-school for their temporary lodging; when the family is assigned permanent lodging will the student have to transfer or can they remain in their current school?

Dr. Nardos King: The current regulation states that if it is within 90 days of the end of the school year, the student can remain in their current school.

Question: Any word on whether schools will be delayed opening for two weeks?

Dr. Nardos King: There is a school board meeting happening right now and the Superintendent is requesting that schools opening be delayed until September 8 to give us more time to plan.

Question: Has the open door policy changed as a result of the Housing Mayor Program?

COL Michael Greenberg: No, the open door policy has not changed.

Question: When will you put no parking signs on 9th Street?

COL Michael Greenberg: We have no current plans to put signs up. We have contacted the Soldiers Recover Unit and the USO that they help us by providing information to their visitors that they use the parking behind the barracks and not to park on the street. If there are additional concerns, please consult with your Village Mayors. We have also gotten DES involved to help.

Question: Why was Lieber Gate closed?

Mr. Frank Hentschel: The closure of several gates to include Lieber was a part of our COVID-19 public health emergency response plan. Fewer access points allowed for safer control of our guard staff. Since we have moved to Health Protection Condition Bravo status, we have reopened one of the previously closed gates, J.J. Kingman. We will continue to monitor the traffic situation and open additional gates as necessary to facilitate installation access.

Question: When will digital speed limit sign in Fairfax Village be fixed?

Mr. Frank Hentschel: Parts have been ordered and we hope to have that sign fixed soon. Speed enforcement in Fairfax Village has been increased.

Question: Is there a plan to fix the fence in River Village?

Mr. Frank Hentschel: The River Village Mayor and I have made contact with the housing community manager and we were informed that this section of fencing will be repaired as soon as possible.

Question: What are the statistics for COVID-19 hospitalizations?

CAPT Cynthia Judy: COVID-19 hospitalizations in the National Capital Region have decreased.

Question: Is the leave mileage restriction lifted?

COL Michael Greenberg: Service members should contact their chain of command for information regarding leave and liberty restrictions.

Question: Are incoming Civilians required to go into quarantine?

COL Michael Greenberg: Incoming Civilians should contact their gaining organization for quarantine requirements?

Question: Is there a way to determine where you are placed on the Child Development Center list?

Mr. George Dickson: Unfortunately, there is not a placement number. Placement will not only be based staffing and group size restrictions but it will also be based on specific staffing for age groups. As of this week, CYS has placed all mission essential patrons.

Question: How is recent Army guidance impacting Fort Belvoir's ability to open its Child Development Centers?

Mr. George Dickson: Fort Belvoir Child Development Centers never closed. We adhere to all policies including IMCOM G9 Operations Orders and Fragmentary Orders as well as command driven direction which is coordinated with the Fort Belvoir Community Hospital and Army Public Health Center.

Question: Will library books already checked out before the lockdown be due immediately?

Mr. George Dickson: All library books checked out before lockdown are by July 31.

Question: When will the thrift shop open and start accepting donations again?

Mr. George Dickson: The thrift shop will open and start accepting donations when the installation is in Health Protection Condition Alpha.

Question: Will Fort Belvoir Community Hospital begin COVID-19 antibody testing?

CAPT Cynthia Judy: There is still no Food and Drug Administration approved test.

Question: When will the pools open?

COL Michael Greenberg: We are in the process of opening the lap swimming. We don't had a date yet. The availability would start with active duty service members and first responders.

Question: When will the bowling alley reopen?

COL Michael Greenberg: We don't have a date on when the bowling alley will open but we will keep the community posted when a decision is made.

Question: When will there be standardization of ID scanning at the gates?

COL Michael Greenberg: The standard is that all guards are required to scan your ID card. They will either look at the picture on their scanner or look at the picture on the ID card but all cards are scanned. Trusted traveler is suspended until further notice so all occupants in the vehicle must be either DOD ID card holders or have a valid Fort Belvoir visitors pass.

Question: When will in-person out-processing be open for military personnel?

Mr. Kevin Rennick: Currently, the Military Personnel Division and all of its services are located in one facility. Therefore, face to face appointments in a COVID-19 environment are impractical at this time. We are continuing to work on this concern.