

# Fort Belvoir Facebook Virtual Town Hall Q&A Recap

## June 5, 2020

\*This is not a verbatim transcript. Questions and answers may be edited for clarity.\*

Participants:

- COL Michael Greenberg, Fort Belvoir Garrison Commander
- CAPT Cynthia Judy, Director, Fort Belvoir Community Hospital
- Mr. George Dickson, Director, Family and Morale, Welfare and Recreation
- Mr. Kevin Rennick, Director, Human Resources
- Chaplain (LTC) Dean Akers, Acting Garrison Chaplain

### **Question: How many cases are being treated for COVID?**

Capt. Cynthia Judy: I will tell you, optimistically, is that the number of inpatients that we have that are admitted with a COVID related diagnosis is fewer than when we first started this and so there's my little bit of optimism going on. Obviously we've got a lot of outpatient testing going on. You can see what the Fairfax County and all the other numbers are. But the number of inpatients with COVID is definitely less than it was at the start.

### **Question: There were a lot of questions about protecting staff and patients who are using the curbside pharmacy.**

**Capt. Cynthia Judy:** I just want to remind folks to continue to wear their face covering when they're using that curbside pharmacy. It seems a little atypical because you're in your car. But wearing the face covering is to protect you and the staff member that's helping you.

### **Question: Is there a testing strategy in place for personnel that will go into effect when we return to work, like the regular measures that are being taken at the door with the temperature scanning or the questions depending on where you're working in what they're doing in those particular places?**

**Capt. Cynthia Judy:** And the answer is not yet. I seen some draft policies that are coming out from DoD where they might test certain percentage of the workforce periodically. But there's nothing like that in place right now. The single greatest thing that you can do is testing. If there's a risk of exposure, the greatest things that you can do are hand washing, social distancing, and wearing face coverings.

### **Question: When will playgrounds open?**

**COL Michael Greenberg:** Starting on Monday, the Garrison's certified playground safety inspectors will be going out to each playground, they will do it in about a two week period to assess every playground. Playgrounds are still not on the list to open up yet. However, once we assess the playground If there are any life, health, safety concerns with any of our playgrounds, those playgrounds will not open until fixed.

**Question: We are due to PCS, will we still be able to PCS or is stop-movement extended?**

**Mr. Kevin Rennick:** Currently, stop-movement remains in effect until June 30. We have not received any additional guidance beyond the June 30 end date. However, Soldiers are PCSing with an approved exception to policy.

**Question: What about meeting guidelines to allow PCS both to and from base?**

**Mr. Kevin Rennick:** Our military personnel division are lockstep with meeting Army directives and guidelines as it pertains to PCS movements. We are corresponding with your unit or soldier unit S-1 to ensure the appropriate documentation needed for PCS moves and submitted and signed by the appropriate approving authority. I also want to encourage all soldiers to please consult with your chain of command, and your gaining unit as well for their further procedures and processes once you arrive.

**Question: I'm relocating to the Pentagon from Hawaii. I've received conflicting reports conflict reports regarding if my family will need to quarantine. We should be arriving on or around June 24. Can you give me the official answer on quarantine?**

**Mr. Kevin Rennick:** Per Army guidance, anyone returning from overseas is required to quarantine. However, the best response to get is to obtain quarantine procedures from your gaining unit. I want to encourage you to take advantage of the Army Sponsorship Program. That is the best program, especially in this current environment, to assist Soldiers and their families during PCS.

**Question: Will there be enhanced screening?**

**COL Michael Greenberg:** So as you know we were we were, we were doing some screening at the commissary. We were doing some checks at the PX. And then we have our COVID patrols that are going out and just making sure people are putting face coverings on. So those will continue over the next couple of weeks.

**Question: At Fort Myer, they are allowing drivers to actually show their IDs through the windows. Can we do that here?**

**COL Michael Greenberg:** We're not going to do this here. We believe that our ability to be able to see inside the vehicles is important.

**Question: How do you justify denying child care to a mission essential soldier. Just because one spouse is not the mission essential soldier, why should we be denied child care?**

**Capt. Michael Greenberg:** I think everyone is already tracking that we have limited child care spaces. Any mission essential Service members with a full-time, working non-essential spouse is classified as a priority 6 on the interim pandemic patron priorities and will be placed in the capacity of the facilities, maybe in the upcoming months. If both parents are not considered mission essential then they will not be place on the top of the priority list.

**Question: In order to fully implement a Childcare Aware of America subsidy application, Childcare Aware needs a certification of non-availability from CYS to complete the packet. We have emailed to you is repeatedly over the last few weeks and have not even received the request for this document. What is the plan to address the need for the CNAs for those families that are planning on using Childcare Aware for their childcare needs going forward?**

**Mr. George Dickson:** The current operational guidance from DoD is the requirement for statement of non-availability has been temporarily waived for 90 days, and parents can submit their applications without the SNA directly to Childcare Aware of America.

**Question: If our child is not going back to their CDC. How do we get our credit back?**

**Mr. George Dickson:** Parents can send a message to the CYS Facebook page, or email the Contact Us email box request a refund if not returning to CYS. Someone will get back with you within 72 business hours to assist you. Due to the large volume of requests, refunds can take 15 days to process.

**Question: Is there a plan in place for parents that may work on Fort Belvoir and due to the pandemic they're unable to obtain daycare due to schools and summer camps being closed. Is there something in place to look at these issues that will directly affect parents coming back to work at some point?**

**Mr. George Dickson:** CYS recognizes the significant impact in hardship COVID-19 operations has caused our CYS families for finding childcare options for CDC displaced children, as parents begin to report back to work. CDC has been directed to remain and limited COVID-19 operational capacities in the coming months and will continue to assess the current capability and operational capacity during this time. Parents will need to seek alternative childcare arrangements, outside of CYS until conditions improve.

**Question: Can we have someone from the Villages be the special guest to speak to their residents?**

**COL Michael Greenberg:** I will work with the Villages on scheduling them for one of the Facebook town halls.

**Question: Does housing report positive cases?**

**COL Michael Greenberg:** The answer is yes. We tracking positive COVID cases across the installation.

**Question: When do you think we'll be able to make appointments?**

**Capt. Cynthia Judy:** You can call make an appointment today. Appointments are available. I think this week so we're about 61% booked and so there is appointment availability for both virtual and face to face appointments.

**Question: Why do you have everyone coming in and out the same door? There's always a big cluster of people going through screening, is there a better way to do this?**

**Capt. Cynthia Judy:** We actually monitor the number of people coming through the front door, and there's a lot of logistics reasons why we have patients entering the front door. And the main reason is because patient parking in is in the front of the hospital. If you recall that staff coming in through one of the garages and we're doing staff screening. That was early restricted access point control measures that was put into place. Then we took the other parking garage and we turned it into curbside. I can't run a curbside pharmacy safe lane and open the garage and have cars going through that at the same time. When I can open more doors and have more access for people to come in using other doors. But doing so is going to take away that that drives thru pharmacy and I know that people want to keep that curbside pharmacy.

**Question: With more people heading back to the office, will gate hours and access change?**

**COL Michael Greenberg:** Yes, we are looking at Force Protection Condition levels also. We are looking at Kingman Gate as the next gate to open but I don't have a date.

**Question: I was told this morning that DC region moved to FPCON Charlie. Should our guests still use the online pass request form and email it back? Will the process be impacted?**

**COL Michael Greenberg:** You may continue to use the online visitor pass request process.

**Question: Can visitors enter the PX now?**

**COL Michael Greenberg:** They can also use the concessionaires and the food courts.

**Question: When will the pools reopen?**

**COL Michael Greenberg:** We are we are getting the pools ready to open. Whether they open or not we still need to maintain them. If you look at Fairfax County's phased approach, right now, in Fairfax County pools are not opening. However, if you look at other recovery plans across the country, pools are. The pools right now are not going to open. However, we will continue to access the conditions.