



U.S. ARMY GARRISON BENELUX

COVID-19 Update - March 26

WHY THIS UPDATE NOW ?

As COVID-19 continues to spread throughout Europe and the world, we at the garrison, along with our mission and host nation partners are taking new steps and measures to ensure the health and safety of you, our community members. This update includes key changes to service hours, updates on our partner medical efforts and our schools, information on Geilenkirchen, and overall efforts. It is critical to keep you informed and updated because this is a community problem that requires community solutions. In unity, there is strength.



AAFES/DECA INFORMATION

All stores through our area of responsibility have put some extraordinary measures in place:

- Visitors policy has been revoked and all stores are conducting 100% ID card checks at the entrance.
- Bagging services have been eliminated.
- The Commissary will be open from 10 a.m. to 10.30 a.m. for high-risk customers : people older than 60, retirees, pregnant women, patrons with disabilities.
- Footprints have been placed on the floor to help everyone respect social distancing.
- All our Commissaries and PXs are now equipped with Plexiglas shields at the register to avoid projection of droplets.



SERVICES/HOURS UPDATE

Numerous services might be impacted by the COVID-19 measures. Below are some updates on service changes:



- SHAPE/Chièvres: Shuttle services are discontinued due to a lack of drivers.
 - Brussels:
 1. IACS appointments are by appointment only. Phone number is civilian +32(0)27.17.9769 or DSN 314-368-9769.
 2. ACS is open again ONLY by appointment. You can reach it by calling civilian +32 (0)2 .717.9783 or DSN 368-9783.
- The best way to stay updated is to visit the USAG Benelux webpage at <https://go.usa.gov/xv333> and our Facebook page at <https://www.facebook.com/USAGBenelux/>

OVERARCHING EFFORTS

Keeping our community members safe and healthy is still the garrison's top priority. Prevention measures have included daily cleaning of individual employee work stations, detailed cleaning of common areas, screening of all individuals coming onto post, and setting up hand-washing stations outside facilities for the convenience of visitors. In case a member of the community gets potentially exposed to COVID-19 and is not able to self-quarantine or self-isolate, they will be able to find quarters at Caserne Daumerie. Because we are taking every precaution, you will be screened at the gate and you might even be screened at the entrance of the commissary/PX. We thank you for your patience; these measures are to protect everyone. The garrison also has been collaborating diligently with mission partners.



SHAPE HEALTH CARE FACILITY

The SHAPE Health Care Facility is taking every step to provide you appropriate care. On March 9, the COVID-19 Clinic became operational for all acute respiratory patients. In Brussels, the facility has the capability to screen patients and direct them to an isolation room for care as needed. The COVID-19 hotline is manned 24 hours a day. The SHAPE Preventive Medicine team is instrumental with working closely with Garrison to help trace our COVID-19 suspected patients. Eight medics and one lab technician from the 421st Multifunctional Medical Battalion are reinforcing the local team so they can meet their day-to-day mission. The leadership team is working closely with their Belgian counterparts to assess the situation and ensure our patients are well integrated into the local medical system.



GEILENKIRCHEN AND TRI-BORDER COMMUNITY

The current COVID response has strengthened the relationships between the SHAPE and Geilenkirchen (U.S.) clinics. There is an improved situational awareness and appreciation for the unique circumstances that surround military patient care in the Tri-Border Community. Each day, we gain a better understanding of our local and regional host nation health authorities, which makes us better prepared to respond to this pandemic. We also work with our partners at the NATO air base to provide information on their services. The National Support Unit there is refining operations to meet the SECDEF HPCON-C intent. Though many services are still open through distance means, physical presence on base will be reduced as much as possible. At this time only the 470th ABS MTF, post office and command section will be staffed.



U.S. Army Guidance: <https://www.army.mil/coronavirus/>
 U.S. Department of Defense: <https://www.defense.gov/Explore/Spotlight/Coronavirus/>
 Military Health System: <https://www.health.mil/news/in-the-spotlight/coronavirus>
 COVID-19 in Belgium: <https://info-coronavirus.be/fr/news/>
 Dutch Ministry of Health, Wellness, and Sport : <https://www.rivm.nl/node/152921>
 German Federal Ministry of Health: <https://www.bundesgesundheitsministerium.de/en/press/2020/coronavirus.html>

