WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW

1. The Army Surgeon General, LTG R. Scott Dingle, “TSG SENDS: COVID-19 and Army Medicine” messages from this week are included for your awareness. Please read!
   - Published TSG Sends (July 17, 2020)

2. DOD COVID-19 Talking Points (July 20, 2020)

3. COVID-19 Information:
   - Army Medicine COVID-19 Hotline: 1-800-984-8523 or DSN 312-421-3700
   - Army: www.army.mil/coronavirus
   - APHC: https://phc.amedd.army.mil/topics/campaigns/covid19
   - DoD Web Page: www.defense.gov/Explore/Spotlight/Coronavirus
   - TRICARE Web Page: https://tricare.mil/coronavirus

ARMY MEDICINE WEEK IN REVIEW

ARTICLES

1. Somewhere Between a Soldier and a Civilian (July 20) www.dvidshub.net/news/374205/somewhere-between-soldier-and-civilian


3. More than 20,000 troops have contracted COVID-19, as numbers continue to rise (July 17) www.militarytimes.com/news/your-military/2020/07/17/more-than-20000-troops-have-contracted-covid-19-as-numbers-continue-to-rise

4. Army senior leaders discuss lessons learned from COVID-19 (July 17) www.army.mil/article/237381/army_senior_leaders_discuss_lessons_learned_from_covid_19

5. ‘Verge of collapsing’: Soldiers describe initial fight against COVID-19 (July 16) www.army.mil/article/237328/verge_of_collapsing_soldiers_describe_initial_fight_against_covid_19


9. Army Medical Researchers Waging War on Coronaviruses (July 15) www.nationaldefensemagazine.org/articles/2020/7/15/army-medical-researchers-waging-war-on-coronaviruses


11. ROK Army Medical Officers ‘Patched’ to 65th Medical Brigade (July 14) www.dvidshub.net/news/373913/rok-army-medical-officers-patched-65th-medical-brigade


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VIDEOS
1. Virtual Orientation Week (July 17)  www.dvidshub.net/video/760138/virtual-orientation-week


MEDIA ENGAGEMENTS / EVENTS

2. Defense Industrial Base - U.S. Secretary of Defense (July 17)  www.facebook.com/SecDef/videos/1929105897225781
Army Medicine Family,

Although we are making significant progress as a nation with regard to the spread of the Coronavirus, the numbers are increasing in both positive diagnoses and deaths. This is true even within our military. The CDC Director recently stated that the Nation could have the virus under control in about eight weeks if everyone wore masks or face coverings. I encourage you to help prevent the spread of COVID-19 by following the CDC’s guidelines.

Face coverings and social distancing will help us win this war. Please see the CDC link under my signature for the latest information.

Army Medicine continues to answer the Nation’s call here at home. We have Urban Augmentation Medical Task Forces (UAMTF) standing up and filling in gaps to support locations where the rate of serious infections are overwhelming the local medical facilities.

Currently, we have MEDCOM personnel embedded in six civilian hospitals in San Antonio. The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services has said they are confident that they can meet medical needs because of the support coming from DOD. More UAMTFs are moving out-heading into harm’s way. I’m extraordinarily proud of our teams for their relentless dedication to the Army, Army Medicine, and to our Nation.

Army Medicine continues to provide care in our own facilities, maintain the readiness of our Force, and respond at a moment’s notice to the needs of our Nation’s citizens.

Our research community is busy as well. The Walter Reed Army Institute of Research (WRAIR) Clinical Trials Center has begun recruitment and screening of potential subjects in an early clinical trial of the WRAIR candidate vaccine.

The U.S. Army Research Institute of Infectious Disease’s biosafety team posted a pre-print manuscript for SARS-CoV-2 stability on a variety of surfaces (skin, currency, and clothing) in various environmental conditions. You can see the results at: https://doi.org/10.1101/2020.07.01.20144253. Tests of the virus’ stability on these surfaces help determine the overall potential transmission of infection from these items, which will inform risk assessments and critical control points for minimizing the spread of the virus.

As a reminder, the DOD is still seeking to collect 8,000 units of plasma from patients who have recovered from COVID-19 as part of a nationwide effort to study the effectiveness of convalescent plasma as a treatment for the illness. If you’ve recovered from COVID-19, I encourage you to consider donating plasma. Please visit https://militaryblood.dod.mil/ to schedule an appointment.

Brooke Army Medical Center (BAMC) has expanded its ability to care for critically injured and ill patients from the local community to help ease the COVID-19 burden on the area healthcare system. BAMC is providing 25% of San Antonio’s extracorporeal membrane oxygenation (ECMO) capability. BAMC has the only adult ECMO center with full capability in the DOD and remains one of the few centers in the world with air transport capability. Outstanding work, Team BAMC! Here’s the story: www.dvidshub.net/news/373851/san-antonio-military-health-system-expands-covid-19-critical-care-capabilities.

Army Medicine is highly engaged throughout the enterprise manning fixed facilities, training medical personnel, facilitating readiness, coordinating deployment, and many other tasks to keep our nation healthy and safe.

I know during the pandemic we are all separated but I am aware of all you do and am grateful for your commitment and service to our Nation. Please, stay safe and look out for each other.

Army Medicine is Army Strong!

TSG 45

VR

R. SCOTT DINGLE
Lieutenant General, U.S. Army
The Surgeon General and Commanding General, USAMEDCOM

Useful links:
www.armyemergencyrelief.org/covid19
www.militaryonesource.mil/coronavirus
www.coronavirus.gov
www.cdc.gov/coronavirus
www.usa.gov/coronavirus
www.defense.gov/Explore/Spotlight/Coronavirus

Updated CDC guidance for cleaning:

CDC Reopening Decision Trees:
COVID-19 TALKING POINTS
(As of July 20, 2020)

Priority Messaging
- The number one priority of DoD is protection of our people.
- DoD continues to support state and local authorities across the country combat COVID-19 while safeguarding mission readiness.
- Operation Warp Speed will deliver a safe and effective vaccine and therapeutics by January 2021.
- Local conditions drive Commanders’ decisions to adjust Force Health Protection policies and procedures.

Protecting our People
- The Department has processes in place to conduct contact tracing and mitigate the impact of positive cases within DoD and our communities.
- DoD will continue to collaborate with state, regional and local leaders, host nations, and public health experts to track COVID-19 and adjust global policies and procedures as needed.
- We urge all Service member, DoD employees, and their families to follow proper personal safety precautions.
- Take care of one another: Commanders are instructed to do what is right to ensure safety and the health of their force. We urge all of our people to look out for one another. We’re all in this together – as we always have done, together is how we will get through this.

Providing Support
- DoD remains committed to providing military manpower and equipment – both capacity and capability – to support state and local communities around the nation.
- COVID-19 remains a global challenge that no nation can face alone – our strong network of alliances and partnerships is critical to combating this virus.
- Together, we should continue to support our partners’ ability to detect and respond to the virus, reinforce international health care systems, and share lessons learned to protect the force.

Preserving Readiness
- We maintain a ready, global presence, strong and capable no matter the threat.
- We never shut down and continue to fly, sail, operate, and train.
- Our training bases have adjusted their procedures in a safe and effective manner to meet established requirements for recruits.
- DoD has plans in place that ensure our special operations forces and the nuclear triad of strategic bombers, intercontinental ballistic missiles, and submarine-launched missiles continue to be a ready and reliable deterrent.