MEMORANDUM FOR RECORD

SUBJECT: Updated Restriction of Movement (ROM) and Travel Guidance for the West Point Community

1. Purpose. The purpose of this memorandum is to provide clarification on the most recent update to New York State travel guidance and how these changes affect travel and Restriction of Movement (ROM) for the West Point Community. West Point senior leadership will continuously evaluate this guidance as the COVID environment continues to change.

2. Background. West Point has extended its declaration of a Public Health Emergency until January 19, 2021. As COVID-19 infections have risen nationally, New York State adjusted its approach to contain the spread of the virus. Previously, New York State maintained a list of “restricted states,” from which any travel required a mandatory 14-day quarantine upon return to New York. IAW DoD guidelines and FRAGORD 16 to West Point OPORD 2020-026, all West Point personnel not on official travel were required to comply with New York State guidance, and comply with a West Point 14-day ROM if they travelled to a restricted state.

3. New York Policy Change. New York State no longer uses a restricted state list. The state has transitioned to a mandatory 14-day quarantine for personnel entering after a 24-hour visit to any state that does not share a border with New York. New York’s new policy offers travelers the opportunity to test out of the 14-day New York quarantine provided that the traveler receives a negative COVID test within three days before arriving to New York, and the traveler receives a negative COVID test no earlier than the fourth day of quarantine.

4. CDC Guidance on Travel. Personnel with a confirmed or probable COVID-19 infection will delay travel until they meet criteria to discontinue isolation. Isolation release criteria include all the following:

   (1) ten days must have passed since the initial onset of symptoms,
   (2) be fever-free for 24 hours without the use of fever-reducing medicines (e.g. acetaminophen, ibuprofen, etc.), and,
   (3) other symptoms have improved

If you have had contact with a person confirmed to have COVID-19, you will quarantine for 14 days from the last contact with that individual, and resume travel thereafter. If travel is unavoidable while you are in a quarantine status, the CDC encourages you to use a private vehicle and to conduct your travel such that you minimize exposure to anyone you may contact. USMA will follow all CDC travel guidance and ensure personnel in an isolation or quarantine status will not travel until all conditions for release have been met.
5. West Point ROM Policy. West Point’s 14-day ROM is distinctly different from New York State’s 14-day quarantine requirement. The option to test out of quarantine only applies to the New York State 14-day quarantine. To continue to protect the West Point community and the Cadet population, West Point will maintain the requirement for a 14-day ROM for personnel (military, civilian or dependent) participating in unofficial travel for more than 24 hours to any state that is non-contiguous to New York. In addition, supervisors and chains of command should continue to conduct risk-based screening of all unofficial travel to both contiguous and non-contiguous states to mitigate COVID risk and maintain mission requirements. All personnel and supervisors should understand the increased risk associated with certain geographical areas (hot spots) and activities (especially indoor activities such as funerals, weddings, family gatherings, etc.). Individuals and organizations should plan for requested unofficial travel, subsequent ROM, and return to duty.

   a. Anyone who is enrolled into New York State quarantine is automatically enrolled in West Point’s 14-day ROM.

   b. While in a ROM status, personnel assigned to West Point are restricted from using any West Point public facilities.

   c. While in a ROM status, personnel assigned to West Point are restricted from leaving West Point except to attend medical appointments unless attending those appointments are further restricted by the state of New York.

   d. Any visitors to West Point on a West Point ROM status are restricted from using any West Point public facilities.

   e. While in a ROM status, personnel living off-post are restricted from entering West Point unless they are going to KACH for medical treatment.

   f. If travelers test out of New York State’s 14-day quarantine, all West Point ROM restrictions for personnel living on and off the installation remain in effect.

   g. West Point ROM only applies to the person or persons in a household or family unit that participated in travel. West Point ROM is not applicable to members of the household/family that did not participate in travel as outlined in paragraph 5.

   h. In accordance with MEDCOM testing guidance, KACH will not provide COVID tests for the purpose of testing out of the New York State quarantine.

6. Application to On-Post Activities. In line with USMA’s current COVID force protection posture, the West Point Community should be cognizant of and mitigate the risk associated with hosting visitors in their quarters. Persons living on West Point are responsible for their visitor’s compliance with New York State and West Point ROM standards. When hosting visitors who do not live or work on West Point, West Point residents should not permit persons who live in other West Point households to visit their residence. When hosting visitors, all personnel assigned to West Point should wear a mask, socially distance, and maximize the use of other NPI to prevent the spread of COVID. Like the New York rules for private residences, West Point personnel should not permit more than 10 people to gather in their on-post quarters.
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7. Application to the United States Corps of Cadets. Due to the elevated risk for COVID to rapidly spread in close living quarters and the nature of once-in-a-lifetime events being potential "super-spreader" events, the 14-day ROM will remain the default condition for any Cadet travelling outside of West Point.

8. Exceptions to 14-Day ROM. Per FRAGORD 22 to West Point OPORD 2020-026, personnel travelling on official orders to West Point will not be placed in a 14-day ROM. Personnel on official travel are authorized to perform select activities necessary to return to or move to West Point. Activities not in support of official travel or movement are not authorized. All personnel returning from official travel will minimize on-post activity, adhere to strict NPI protocols, and self-monitor for the 14-day period upon return.

9. Consideration of Thanksgiving Holiday. Currently, there are no exceptions for the ROM requirement outlined in this memorandum. Thanksgiving poses a significant risk for COVID-19 spread as families potentially converge from different communities and locations, to spend prolonged time indoors in close contact. Thanksgiving Day for 2020 is preceded and followed by full class days for the Corps of Cadets. In addition, Thanksgiving falls within 14 days of a strategically important Army/Navy Game at Michie Stadium on 12 December and the start of Winter Break on 13 December. Personnel in isolation resulting from a positive COVID test or personnel in a quarantine status from a contact tracing event will not be authorized to travel until cleared by their medical provider.

10. Importance of Non-Pharmaceutical Interventions (NPI). NPI remains the foundation to preventing community spread. As the infection rates increase in the local area, it is imperative that personnel observe all published NPI guidance. All personnel in the Central Post Restricted Area and common areas across post (e.g. Commissary/PX, Trophy Point, parking lots, in/around neighborhoods, etc.) are required to wear a mask that covers both the nose and mouth and observe a minimum social distance of six feet between persons.

11. The point of contact for this memorandum is the undersigned at christopher.weathers@westpoint.edu and (845) 938-2517.

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