



NEWS RELEASE

28TH BOMB WING PUBLIC AFFAIRS

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FURTHER INVESTIGATION REVEALS ELLSWORTH NOT DIRECTLY IMPACTED BY LOCAL COVID-19 CASE

ELLSWORTH AIR FORCE BASE, S.D. – Ellsworth AFB continues to work closely with community partners to identify any individuals who may have come into contact with the person Monument Health confirmed as testing positive for the 2019 Novel Coronavirus (COVID-19) March 24, and is placing individuals meeting the correct criteria into quarantine status as appropriate.

Currently, no individuals living on Ellsworth or having contact with anyone at the base's Child Development Center or Youth Center have been identified as being impacted by this announcement.

"I would like to re-iterate that Ellsworth does not have any confirmed COVID-19 cases," said Col. David Doss, 28th Bomb Wing commander.

Ellsworth is currently in Health Protection Condition (HPCON) Bravo, and has declared a public health emergency. The HPCON B declaration defines base measures for a moderate disease threat to base personnel that has the potential to rapidly move into an area. While there are still no positive COVID-19 cases on the installation, the public health emergency declaration allows the installation commander additional authority to enforce social distancing. This includes providing additional telework opportunities, expanding the civilian leave policy and further restricting base access if required.

Good hygiene practices are the best preventive measure to control the spread of viruses. Things like washing your hands with soap and water for at least 20 seconds, avoiding contact with those who have been sick, going to the doctor when you feel ill, and disinfecting frequently touched surfaces help prevent the spread of COVID-19 and other viruses.

For the latest information on COVID-19, visit the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and Department of Defense Coronavirus websites at <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus> and <https://www.defense.gov/Explore/Spotlight/Coronavirus/>.