



# NEWS RELEASE

**28TH BOMB WING PUBLIC AFFAIRS**

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Release: 03-04-20

March 24, 2020

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## **BASE INCREASES HEALTH PROTECTION CONDITION LEVEL**

**ELLSWORTH AIR FORCE BASE, S.D.** – Ellsworth Air Force Base raised its Health Protection Condition (HPCON) level from Alpha+ to Bravo in response to the spread of Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19).

There have been no reported cases of COVID-19 on Ellsworth AFB. Doing this merely aligns the Health Protection Condition with existing precautionary measures, and helps educate base personnel in preventing potential widespread outbreak. A public health emergency is not being declared.

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. Measures include educating personnel on the threats and precautionary measures, and reviewing plans to limit communication of COVID-19.

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/>.