

VERSIONS:**July 22, 2020: Original**

First and foremost, thank you for considering a deployment during this unprecedented time in the U.S. Your health and safety are our top priority when considering a deployment out of your normal area of work. The ongoing COVID-19 pandemic and upcoming hurricane season have created more awareness of personal health conditions and their implications while on these types of deployments.

High-Risk Medical Conditions

Individuals that have chronic health conditions should be aware that while no increased risk of contracting COVID-19 exists, the progression of the illness may be more severe and/or prolonged with the medical conditions listed below.

Validated data currently indicates that individuals who are *immunocompromised* should not voluntarily expose themselves to any high-risk conditions. According to the most recently updated guidelines from the CDC, people of any age with the following conditions are at an increased risk of severe illness from COVID-19:

- Cancer
- Chronic kidney disease
- COPD (chronic obstructive pulmonary disease)
- Obesity (body mass index of 30 or higher)
- Serious heart conditions, such as heart failure, coronary artery disease, or cardiomyopathies
- Sickle cell disease
- Type 2 diabetes mellitus

Other Conditions to Consider

- Cerebrovascular disease
- Chronic lung conditions (asthma, cystic fibrosis, pulmonary fibrosis)
- Endocrine disorders including Type 1 Diabetes
- Autoimmune disorders
- Hematologic disorders
- Mental health conditions that include PTSD, anxiety, and depression

If you have questions regarding whether deployment might adversely impact your condition or interfere with treatment, please contact your personal medical provider for guidance. Similarly, if you feel that your condition might negatively impact your ability to function during deployment in combination with long work hours, numerous stressors and significant potential trauma exposure, we urge you to seek medical advice prior to committing to deploy.

COVID-19 Symptoms

Please be aware that if you are or have experienced any new or worsening symptoms of COVID-19 within the last 14 days or have had contact with a known COVID-19 individual without proper PPE, you will be ineligible to deploy. Symptoms include:

- Fever (>100.4F)
- Persistent Cough

- Sore throat
- Runny nose
- Loss of Taste or Smell
- Chills
- Fatigue
- Headache
- Nausea, vomiting and/or diarrhea

We care about you and your colleague's personal, physical and mental health. As with everything we do, adequately preparing for a potential deployment is a critical part of protecting each other. Your personal healthcare provider should be your trusted source for specific guidance related to your condition.

For more information on high risk medical conditions please visit the [CDC website](#).