



The Government continued their phased easing of restrictions and further easing are expected in July and Aug. In order to review the current situation for the DF with respect to COVID-19 related matters a COVID-19 JOPG was held on the 18th of June.

The medical force protection of all personnel remains the priority of the General Staff.

The follow **decisions** were provided by the General Staff:

1. A revised DF Framework for Living with COVID-19 (Ver 14) will be issued today.
2. Pers should attend workplace activities if Formation/Unit Commanders can ensure strict adherence to DF COVID-19 guidance and protocols.
3. Military Competitions: The conduct of Formation competitions are authorised subject to the approval of Formation Commanders. Where competition involves the utilisation of training facilities or locations outside the Parent Formation, the approval of that Formation Commander must be confirmed.
4. Corps Concentrations: Corps Concentrations are authorised by J7 on a case-by-case basis and subject to D COS(Ops) approval.
5. Range Practices are authorised for PDF and RDF personnel with effect from 01 JUL'21.
6. Fitness testing is permitted for PDF and RDF personnel. Priority remains to:
1) ATCP, 2)Overseas 3)Courses.
7. Outdoor matches/events/races may recommence with a maximum of 100 attending at Formation Level. DF level competitions are subject to ongoing J7 review.
8. Unit Collective Training & Exercises are permitted subject to the approval of the relevant Formation Commander.
9. The RDF Induction process can commence with effect from 01 JUL'21. It is planned that RDF Induction Training will commence with effect from 01 SEP'21.
10. D Res approved (non-residential) RDF Training Days/Evenings (in pods of 15) are authorised with effect from 01 JUL'21, subject to the approval of the relevant Formation Commanders. This will permit for example weapons refresher training, TOETs, etc.
11. RDF Approved Overnight Training activities (e.g. Annual Camps) are NOT authorised at this time but will be subject to further review on an ongoing basis. Please see footnote 5 of the Defence Forces General Framework for Living with COVID-19 (Ver. 14) for exceptions.

The following **updates and guidance** were provided by the General Staff:

1. With the easing of restrictions both nationally and within the DF, all commanders are encouraged to include PSS staff in planning for the return to work for personnel and also to ensure that all personnel are reminded of the availability of services provided by PSS.
2. The Defence Forces has approx. 230 personnel deployed daily in support of Op FORTITUDE across a range of Testing, Vaccinating, Logs Support and Mandatory Quarantine Centres (MQC) supports.
3. The General Staff Direction and Guidance with respect to COVID-19 vaccinations in the Defence Forces has been promulgated through the chain of command.
4. All Formations and Units are requested to ensure that all their personnel comply with guidance issued by DCOS(Sp) on 08 MAR 2021 in relation to the recording of COVID-19 Vaccinations on the Socrates Medical System. In addition, they are also advised to request any civilian employees to inform the Defence Forces when they have received their vaccine.
5. Ceremonial support to Áras an Úachtaráin for the presentation of credentials has recommenced, within National and Defence Forces COVID-19 guidance and protocols.
6. The next monthly release order for COVID-19 related PPE will be signed on 25 JUN '21. At the request of J4 this will include a six (6) month supply for the next Inf Gp deploying to UNDOF.

DF Internal Communications Team.

