



DEPARTMENT OF THE AIR FORCE  
HEADQUARTERS UNITED STATES AIR FORCE ACADEMY

4 January 2022

MEMORANDUM FOR ALL USAFA PERSONNEL

FROM: USAFA/CC

SUBJECT: Pause on USAFA Exceptions to Policy on the Use of Masks

- References:
- (a) Deputy Secretary Defense Memorandum, "Updated Mask Guidance for all DoD Installations and Other Facilities," dated 28 July 2021
  - (b) Secretary of Defense Memorandum, "Use of Masks and Other Health Measures," 4 February 2021
  - (c) Secretary of the Air Force Memorandum, "Department of the Air Force Guidance on Use of Masks," dated 16 February 2021
  - (d) USAFA Superintendent Memorandum, "USAFA Guidance on Use of Masks," 22 February 2021
  - (e) 10 ABW Memorandum, "Updated USAFA Guidance on the Use of Masks Indoors," 29 July 2021
  - (f) USAFA/CC Memorandum, "Consolidated USAFA Guidance and Exceptions to Policy on the Use of Masks," 8 September 2021

1. On 8 September 2021, I approved an exception to policy on the use of masks at USAFA and the Preparatory School. This exception was for fully vaccinated personnel within Sijan, Vandenberg, Preparatory School dormitory rooms, squadron hallways, squadron common use rooms, intercollegiate team rooms, locker rooms, and athletic training rooms.

2. Due to an increase in COVID-19 cases and prevalence of the Omicron variant, I am pausing this exception effective 5 January 2022 and will reassess on 1 February 2022.

3. As a result, pursuant to References (a) through (e), **all individuals, regardless of vaccination status, must wear masks while indoors on USAFA. Cadets and Cadet Candidates are not required to wear masks in the dorms when they are in their own dorm rooms.**

4. Additionally, children ages five and under are still not required to wear masks.

5. My point of contact for this memo is the 10th Medical Group Public Health Flight, [usaf.usafa.10-mdg.mbx.public-health@mail.mil](mailto:usaf.usafa.10-mdg.mbx.public-health@mail.mil).

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Richard M. Clark".

RICHARD M. CLARK  
Lieutenant General, USAF  
Superintendent



DEPUTY SECRETARY OF DEFENSE  
1010 DEFENSE PENTAGON  
WASHINGTON, DC 20301-1010

JUL 28 2021

MEMORANDUM FOR SENIOR PENTAGON LEADERSHIP  
COMMANDERS OF THE COMBATANT COMMANDS  
DEFENSE AGENCY AND DOD FIELD ACTIVITY DIRECTORS

SUBJECT: Updated Mask Guidance for all DoD Installations and Other Facilities

Reference: Deputy Secretary of Defense Memorandum, "Updated Mask Guidelines for Vaccinated Persons," May 13, 2021

In accordance with the updated guidance released by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) on "Interim Public Health Recommendations for Fully Vaccinated People," issued July 27, 2021, the above reference is hereby rescinded.

Beginning July 28, 2021:

- In areas of substantial or high community transmission, DoD requires all Service members, Federal employees, onsite contractor employees, and visitors, regardless of vaccination status, to wear a mask in an indoor setting in installations and other facilities owned, leased or otherwise controlled by DoD.
- Service members, Federal employees, onsite contractor employees, and visitors who are not fully vaccinated also need to continue to physically distance consistent with applicable CDC and DoD Force Health Protection guidance.
- DoD installations, other facilities, and worksites shall, as soon as possible, post signs and post information on their websites clarifying what masking requirements apply in each installation, other facility, and worksite.
- Organizations should consult with their servicing Labor Relations Office for guidance regarding implementation for bargaining unit employees.

CDC guidance and definitions of low, moderate, substantial, and high spread can be found at: <https://www.cdc.gov/mmwr/volumes/70/wr/pdfs/mm7030e2-H.pdf>. Data on levels of community transmission can be found at the CDC COVID Data Tracker website found at: <https://covid.cdc.gov/covid-data-tracker/>.

Personnel coming on to a DoD installation, other facility or workspace who do not have a mask may be provided one by DoD. All DoD personnel should continue to comply with CDC guidance regarding areas where masks should be worn, including within airports. The Department will review and revise all applicable Force Health Protection guidance to address the new CDC guidelines. Further guidance will be provided as appropriate by the Under Secretary of Defense for Personnel and Readiness (USD(P&R)). In addition, the Director of Administration and Management may, as appropriate and in coordination with the USD(P&R), issue further guidance for the Pentagon Reservation.



OSD006862-21/CMD009083-21



SECRETARY OF DEFENSE  
1000 DEFENSE PENTAGON  
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FEB - 4 2021

MEMORANDUM FOR SENIOR PENTAGON LEADERSHIP  
COMMANDERS OF THE COMBATANT COMMANDS  
DEFENSE AGENCY AND DOD FIELD ACTIVITY DIRECTORS

SUBJECT: Use of Masks and Other Public Health Measures

We must defeat the coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19) and defend the force against COVID-19 while protecting our Nation. In accordance with Executive Order 13991, "Protecting the Federal Workforce and Requiring Mask-Wearing," January 20, 2021, and Office of Management and Budget Memorandum, "COVID-19 Safe Federal Workplace: Agency Model Safety Principles," January 24, 2021, this memorandum rescinds Secretary of Defense Memorandum, "Department of Defense Guidance on Cloth Face Coverings," April 5, 2020, and provides updated guidance on the use of face coverings and masks, social distancing, and full compliance with health guidance provided by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC).

Effective immediately, all individuals on military installations, as defined below, and all individuals performing official duties on behalf of the Department from any location other than the individual's home, including outdoor shared spaces, will wear masks in accordance with the most current CDC guidelines. Individuals must wear masks continuously while on military installations except: (1) when an individual is alone in an office with floor-to-ceiling walls with a closed door; (2) for brief periods of time when eating and drinking while maintaining distancing in accordance with CDC guidelines and instructions from commanders and supervisors; (3) when the mask is required to be lowered briefly for identification or security purposes; and (4) when necessary to reasonably accommodate an individual with a disability.

Individuals must consistently wear a mask that covers the nose and mouth and that comports with all current guidance from the CDC and the Occupational Safety and Health Administration. Locations where masks must be worn include any common areas or shared workspaces (including open floorplan office spaces, cubicle embankments, and conference rooms) and in outdoor shared spaces. Masks recommended by the CDC include non-medical disposable masks, masks made with breathable fabric (such as cotton), masks made with tightly woven fabric (i.e., fabrics that do not let light pass through when held up to a light source), masks with two or three layers, and masks with inner filter pockets. Novelty or non-protective masks, masks with ventilation valves, or face shields are not authorized as a substitute for masks. Masks must fit properly (i.e., snugly around the nose and chin with no large gaps around the sides of the face).

All individuals on military installations and all individuals performing official duties on behalf of the Department from any location other than the individual's home will follow CDC guidance and practice physical distancing, specifically by staying at least 6 feet (about 2 arm lengths) from other people who are not from an individual's household in both indoor and outdoor spaces. Social distancing should be practiced in combination with other everyday preventive actions to reduce the spread of COVID-19, including by wearing masks, avoiding



touching your face with unwashed hands, and frequently washing your hands with soap and water for at least 20 seconds.

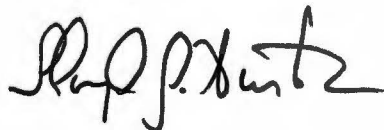
Categorical or case-by-case exceptions to these requirements for Service members and their families in environments other than office spaces that are necessary for military readiness, that are related to living on a military installation, or that are related to mask wearing by children (so long as such exceptions are consistent with CDC guidelines for mask wearing by children) may be granted in writing by DoD Component heads and should include appropriate alternative safeguards whenever feasible, such as additional physical distancing measures or additional testing consistent with DoD testing protocols. The authority to grant exceptions for all DoD Components located on the Pentagon Reservation is the Interim Director of Administration and Management. For all other situations outside of office settings when temporary unmasking is necessary for mission requirements, the authority to grant exceptions may be delegated in writing to officials at a level no lower than a general/flag officer in the grade of O-7, Senior Executive Service member (or equivalent), or, for installations that do not have officials at these levels, O-6 installation commanders.

For the purposes of this guidance, a military installation is a base, camp, post, station, yard, center, homeport facility for any ship, or other activity under the jurisdiction of the Secretary of a Military Department or the Secretary of Defense, including any leased facility, which is located within any State, the District of Columbia, the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico, American Samoa, the Virgin Islands, the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, or Guam. In the case of an activity in a foreign country, a military installation is any area under the operational control of the Secretary of a Military Department or the Secretary of Defense, without regard to the duration of operational control.

DoD Components will comply with applicable labor relations obligations to the extent such obligations do not conflict with the agency's ability to conduct operations during this emergency.

COVID-19 is one of the deadliest threats our Nation has ever faced. As we have done throughout our history, the military will rise to this challenge. It is imperative that we do all we can to ensure the health and safety of our force, our families, and our communities so we can prevail in this fight.

Questions concerning this guidance may be directed to the Office of the Under Secretary of Defense for Personnel and Readiness.



cc:  
Assistant to the Secretary of Defense for Intelligence Oversight  
Director of Administration and Management



SECRETARY OF THE AIR FORCE  
WASHINGTON

16 FEB 2021

MEMORANDUM FOR ALL MAJCOM-FCOM-FOA-DRU/CC  
DISTRIBUTION C

SUBJECT: Department of the Air Force Guidance on Use of Masks

References: (a) Executive Order on Protecting the Federal Workforce and Requiring Mask-Wearing, January 20, 2021  
(b) Executive Associate Director Office of Management and Budget Memorandum, "COVID-19 Safe Federal Workplace: Agency Model Safety Principles," 24 January, 2021  
(c) Secretary of Defense Memorandum, "Use of Masks and Other Public Health Measures," 4 February 2021  
(d) Air Force Surgeon General Memorandum, "Medical Guidance on 3D Printed N-95 Respirators, Face Masks, and N-95 Mask Shields/Covers," 1 April 2020  
(e) Department of the Air Force memorandum, "Department of the Air Force Guidance on Use of Cloth Face Coverings," 5 April 2020, *hereby rescinded*  
(f) AFI 36-2903, *Dress and Personal Appearance of Air Force Personnel*, 7 February 2020  
(g) AFI 10-2519, *Public Health Emergencies and Incidents of Public Health Concern*, 10 December 2019  
(h) US Centers for Disease Control and Prevention CDC Face Covering:  
<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/prevent-getting-sick/about-face-coverings.html>

This memorandum is issued pursuant to References (a), (b), (c) and (d) relating to the use of masks to prevent the spread of illness. This memorandum rescinds and replaces reference (e).

The Department of the Air Force (DAF) is committed to taking every precaution to ensure the health and well-being of our military members, civilian employees, and their families in response to the Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19) pandemic. The DAF supports, and will continue to implement, all measures necessary to mitigate risks of the spread of the disease.

In accordance with references (a), (b) and (c), and except as provided below, effective immediately all individuals on Department property and all individuals performing official duties on behalf of the Department from any location other than the individual's home, including those who have been vaccinated, will wear masks and maintain six feet of physical distancing.

In addition to identified Department of Defense exceptions for mask wear, the DAF-wide exceptions are as follows:

- (1) when necessary to reasonably accommodate a religious belief;
- (2) when underlying health conditions that prohibit the wear of a face covering exist and the individual is in possession of medical documentation from a health care provider outlining such a condition and the restrictions the condition places on wear of a face covering;
- (3) when outdoors and proper physical distancing can be maintained;
- (4) when actively participating in physical fitness activities either indoors or outdoors and either proper physical distancing is maintained or additional measures are implemented to mitigate the threat of transmission;

- (5) when an individual is alone in a vehicle or is sharing the vehicle only with members of their household;
- (6) when use substantively interferes with the proper wear and use of personal protective equipment necessary for the accomplishment of one's military duties
- (7) when personnel are in primary aircrew positions during critical phases of flight or emergencies; or when using flight crew oxygen equipment
- (8) when clear or unrestricted visualization of verbal communication are essential to safe and effective operations

Per reference (c), I hereby delegate categorical or case-by-case exception authority to the requirement to wear a mask, when implementation will significantly impede mission accomplishment, to officials at a level no lower than a general officer in the grade of O-7, Senior Executive Service member (or equivalent), or, for installations that do not have an official at these levels in command, O-6 installation commanders. Upon approval of exceptions, commanders will share information up the chain of command for situational awareness.

This guidance applies to all:

- Total Force Military Personnel
- DoD Civilian Employees (including Non-Appropriated Funded Civilians)
- Family Members
- DoD Contractors
- All other individuals on DoD property, installations, and facilities

Additionally, I hereby delegate authority to The Judge Advocate General, Air and Space Forces, to issue additional categorical and case-by-case exceptions for modifications to the requirements contained in reference (c) pertaining to wear of masks, distancing, and other public health measures as necessary to conduct military justice-related proceedings and other legal representational activities.

I expect all individuals possessing delegated exception authorities pursuant to this memo to review references (a), (b), and (c) and remain consistent with the intent of the documents as they evaluate categorical and case-by-case exceptions. Our charge is to defend the nation, both with the execution of our duties and through our collective public health measures, to include the wear of masks. When making an exception decision, all individuals possessing delegated authority must weigh the operational, readiness or safety necessity of conducting a mission or task without a mask against the risk of allowing the spread of COVID-19.

We expect installation commanders to coordinate their actions with mission and installation partners. Commanders at a DAF-led joint base should refer to their Joint Basing Memorandum of Agreement for details on installation support function responsibilities and ensure proper coordination with their supported component for mask exceptions. Installation commanders at non-joint bases will coordinate the mask exceptions with mission partners. If installation commanders cannot resolve the conflict, refer the issue to the next level of command.

Additional Mask Guidance:

Masks are not required when Occupational Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) is being used (e.g., PPE used by personnel on the Respiratory Protection Program, surgical masks in the healthcare setting, fire fighters wearing supplied air respirators, Airmen or Guardians wearing CBRN masks, etc.)

Commanders will ensure masks worn by uniformed military members are conservative, professional, and in keeping with dignity and respect. Any cloth items worn as face coverings (i.e., neck gaiters, neck warmers, balaclavas, etc.) should be functional, clean, and should cover the mouth and nose.

For civilian employees, commanders must either furnish masks or provide a uniform allowance per AFI 36-128, *Pay Setting and Allowances*, 17 May 2019.

Commanders will ensure compliance with applicable labor relations obligations to the extent such obligations do not conflict with the agency's ability to conduct operations during this emergency.

Surgical N-95 respirators should be reserved for health care workers but may be worn by others when required. Commanders may authorize the optional wear of other types of N-95 masks, surgical-style masks and protective gloves in consultation with local medical professionals.



JOHN P. ROTH  
Acting Secretary of the Air Force

cc:  
AF/CV  
AF/CC  
SF/CV  
SF/CC



DEPARTMENT OF THE AIR FORCE  
HEADQUARTERS UNITED STATES AIR FORCE ACADEMY

22 February 2021

MEMORANDUM FOR USAFA MISSION ELEMENTS AND TENANT UNITS

FROM: USAFA/CC

SUBJECT: USAFA Guidance on Use of Masks

References: (a) Secretary of Defense Memorandum, "Use of Masks and Other Public Health Measures", dated February 4, 2021  
(b) Secretary of the Air Force Memorandum, "Department of the Air Force Guidance on Use of Masks", dated February 16, 2021  
(c) 10th Air Base Wing Memorandum, "USAFA Guidance on the Use of Cloth Face Coverings", dated April 6, 2020, *hereby rescinded*

1. This memorandum is issued pursuant to References (a) and (b) relating to the use of masks to prevent the spread of illness. This memorandum rescinds and replaces reference (c).
2. The United States Air Force Academy (USAFA) is committed to taking every precaution to ensure the health and well-being of our military members, civilian employees, and their families in response to the Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19) pandemic. USAFA supports, and will continue to implement, all measures necessary to mitigate risks of the spread of the disease.
3. In addition to identified Department of Defense and Air Force exceptions for mask wear, the USAFA-wide exception applies to children five years of age and younger.
4. Per Reference (a) and (b), the Dean of Faculty and Commandant of Cadets have the authority to grant exceptions to mask wear policy as it pertains to their mission elements.
5. My point of contact is Colonel Ramon Yambo-Arias, Public Health Emergency Officer (PHEO) who can be contacted at 719-333-6239/7805 or [ramon.yamboarias.mil@mail.mil](mailto:ramon.yamboarias.mil@mail.mil).

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Richard M. Clark".

RICHARD M. CLARK  
Lieutenant General, USAF  
Superintendent





DEPARTMENT OF THE AIR FORCE  
HEADQUARTERS 10TH AIR BASE WING  
USAF ACADEMY COLORADO

29 July 2021

MEMORANDUM FOR ALL USAFA PERSONNEL

FROM: 10 ABW/CC

SUBJECT: Updated USAFA Guidance on the Use of Masks Indoors

- References:
- (a) Deputy Secretary Defense Memorandum, "Updated Mask Guidance for all DoD Installations and Other Facilities," dated 28 July 2021
  - (b) Secretary of Defense Memorandum, "Use of Masks and Other Health Measures," 4 February 2021
  - (c) Secretary of the Air Force Memorandum, "Department of the Air Force Guidance on Use of Masks," dated 16 February 2021
  - (d) USAFA Superintendent Memorandum, "USAFA Guidance on Use of Masks," 22 February 2021

1. As a result of the increasing COVID-19 transmission rates and associated risks across the nation, the Deputy Secretary of Defense has published additional guidance, reference (a), regarding mask wear. "In areas of substantial or high community transmission, DoD requires all Service members, Federal employees, onsite contractor employees, and visitors, regardless of vaccination status, to wear a mask in an indoor setting in installations and other facilities owned, leased or otherwise controlled by DoD."

2. As of today, El Paso County, Colorado, is designated an area of "high community transmission." Transmission levels, as well as other local information regarding COVID-19, can be referenced at <https://covid.cdc.gov/covid-data-tracker/#county-view>.

3. Exceptions to indoor mask wear policy can be found in references (b), (c), and (d).

4. My point of contact for this memo is the Public Health Flight, [usaf.usafa.10-mdg.mbx.public-health@mail.mil](mailto:usaf.usafa.10-mdg.mbx.public-health@mail.mil).

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "CJL", is positioned above the typed name of the signatory.

CHRISTOPHER J. LEONARD, Colonel, USAF  
Commander



DEPARTMENT OF THE AIR FORCE  
HEADQUARTERS UNITED STATES AIR FORCE ACADEMY

8 September 2021

MEMORANDUM FOR ALL USAFA PERSONNEL

FROM: USAFA/CC

SUBJECT: Consolidated USAFA Guidance and Exceptions to Policy on the Use of Masks

References: (a) Deputy Secretary Defense Memorandum, "Updated Mask Guidance for all DoD Installations and Other Facilities," dated 28 July 2021  
(b) Secretary of Defense Memorandum, "Use of Masks and Other Health Measures," 4 February 2021  
(c) Secretary of the Air Force Memorandum, "Department of the Air Force Guidance on Use of Masks," dated 16 February 2021  
(d) USAFA Superintendent Memorandum, "USAFA Guidance on Use of Masks," 22 February 2021  
(e) 10 ABW Memorandum, "Updated USAFA Guidance on the Use of Masks Indoors," 29 July 2021

1. This memorandum is issued pursuant to References (a) through (e). All individuals, regardless of vaccination status, must wear masks while indoors on USAFA.

2. Exceptions to this policy are as follows:

a. Fully vaccinated personnel are not required to wear masks in Sijan, Vandenberg and Preparatory School dormitory rooms, squadron hallways, or common use rooms. Masks remain mandatory for all personnel in all support and facility areas outside of the squadron, group, and wing areas of responsibility (e.g. cadet store, mailroom, dorm management, cadet issue, etc.).

b. Fully vaccinated personnel are not required to wear masks in intercollegiate team rooms, locker rooms, and athletic training rooms. Masks remain mandatory in all other indoor areas of the Athletic Department complex. The same caveats apply to the Preparatory School athletics.

3. Additionally, children ages five and under are not required to wear masks.

4. Exceptions to policy will be assessed weekly and may be modified.

5. My point of contact for this memo is the 10th Medical Group Public Health Flight, [usaf.usafa.10-mdg.mbx.public-health@mail.mil](mailto:usaf.usafa.10-mdg.mbx.public-health@mail.mil).

RICHARD M. CLARK  
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