



APG COVID-19 Frequently Asked Questions & Answers

Updated 4 August 2021

Q. Do we have to wear a mask on the installation if we are vaccinated?

A. According to the DoD guidance released on 28 July, installations located in areas of “substantial” or “high” community transmission will require all employees, regardless of vaccination status, to mask-up indoors. Harford and Cecil counties are currently at “substantial” risk levels, therefore the installation will require all personnel, regardless of vaccination status, to mask-up indoors while on the installation beginning at 11:59 p.m. on 4 August 2021. Unvaccinated personnel should maintain mask wear at all times on the installation, indoors or outdoors. You can check the current community transmission rates here: <https://covid.cdc.gov/covid-data-tracker/#county-view>

Q. Why did the guidance change?

A. APG follows the guidance issued from the Department of Defense, Department of the Army, and Army Materiel Command. The pandemic is a fluid and highly dynamic situation that is being continuously monitored. As the pandemic continues, guidance will also change to reflect evolving CDC guidelines in order to continue to keep our workforce as safe as possible.

Q. If I am vaccinated why do I need to wear a mask again, when I was previously told it was safe not to?

A. Each individual that has been vaccinated has brought us one very important step closer to building herd immunity, but we are not at herd immunity yet. Until we reach this milestone, guidance for those vaccinated and unvaccinated will likely change to reflect the newest scientific data in order to keep everyone as safe as possible. We continue to monitor and follow guidance passed down to us from the CDC and DoD. Battling COVID-19 is a process and requires everyone’s help to fight and defeat this virus.

Q. Does this mean the HPCON level will rise again?

A. We are continuously monitoring the situation. As the parameters of the virus change, so may the HPCON levels as we follow evolving CDC guidance. We’ve moved into HPCON BRAVO and Phase 2a of our COVID-19 Recovery OPORD. According to guidance for HPCON BRAVO and our Phase 2A of the recovery OPORD, commanders are authorized to have 50% of their workforce onsite, installation gatherings should have no more than 50 people, and at this time trusted traveler is still in effect. We will continue to inform the workforce of any changes.

Q. Can I telework instead of coming in and wearing a mask?

A. At this time, commanders have the authority to bring back up to 50 percent of their workforces to the installation. Returning to work is based on mission requirements in accordance with approved on-site occupancy levels. Until we return to normal operations, supervisors may have some flexibility for telework for their employees. Please speak to your supervisor for any specific telework questions. The reasonable accommodation process is also available to those with medical concerns.

Q. Is my supervisor allowed to ask me my vaccination status?

A. Supervisors may ask when there is a need to know, but reporting is voluntary and information must be protected under PII regulations. For purposes of mask use, supervisors may only ask for proof when they have a reasonable belief the employee is in violation.

Q. Where can I get the vaccine?

A. Kirk U.S. Army Health Clinic is continuing to provide COVID vaccines to all eligible personnel on Tuesdays and Thursdays. Please call 410-278-5475 (KIRK) to schedule a time to be vaccinated. You can also reach out to your local pharmacies and health departments to schedule a vaccine appointment. Visit the following site to get your vaccine off installation: www.vaccines.gov or text your zip code to 438829 or call 1-800-232-0233.

Q. Will I be required to get the vaccine based on the President's latest guidance?

A. Currently there is no requirement for the COVID-19 vaccine for both active duty and civilian personnel. The vaccine will be offered on a voluntary basis. Priority populations are highly encouraged to receive the vaccine. Based on the President's directive, the DoD is exploring regulation to mandate the vaccine for military personnel or personnel in specific fields, as is the case for the influenza vaccine.

Q. If I've had COVID, do I need to be vaccinated? Aren't I considered as good as vaccinated?

A. According to CDC guidance you should be vaccinated regardless of whether you already had COVID-19. That's because experts do not yet know how long you are protected from getting sick again after recovering from COVID-19. Even if you have already recovered from COVID-19, it is possible that you could be infected again and put yourself and others at risk.

Q. How long will this mask policy be in effect for?

A. The current mask wear policy will remain in effect until rescinded or modified.

Q. Do I need to wear my mask while entering the gates to the installation?

A. Mask wear is mandatory at APG gates for not fully vaccinated people when entering the installation. They may be lowered at the direction of the gate guard for the purpose of confirming identification

Q. Should children get the vaccine?

A. The FDA recently authorized children ages 12-17 to get the Pfizer vaccine. You can also reach out to your local pharmacies and health departments to schedule a vaccine appointment. Visit the following site to get your vaccine off installation: www.vaccines.gov or text your zip code to 438829 or call 1-800-232-0233.

Q. What do I do if I am eating? Can I move my mask to blow my nose/take a drink/have a snack?

A. An exception for continuously wearing masks indoors includes demasking for brief periods of time when eating and drinking while maintaining distancing in accordance with CDC guidelines and instructions from commanders and your supervisor.

Q. What if I have a health condition that means I can't wear a mask for long periods of time?

A. When necessary to reasonably accommodate an individual with a disability, masks can be temporarily removed in accordance with CDC guidelines and instructions from your supervisor. For questions pertaining to your specific situation, please reach out to your supervisor for further guidance.

Q. What should I do if I see someone not wearing a mask indoors?

A. Please notify your supervisor if you are aware that someone is not following the current masking protocol.

Q. Do I have to wear a mask while exercising?

A. Masks are not mandatory while exercising outdoors with immediate family members or when properly spaced during organized PT. Masks are mandatory while exercising indoors on the installation to include within the gyms and recreation centers.

Q. Do I have to wear a mask in my vehicle?

A. Masks are not mandatory while driving your personal vehicle, alone or with members of your own household. If you are driving with persons from outside of your household, a mask is required whether you're in a personal or government vehicle. If alone in the vehicle or with persons of your own household, the mask can be removed. Please keep in mind that masks may be asked to be lowered at the discretion of the gate guard for the purpose of confirming identification.

Q. Will we have to wear masks at the outdoor pools or other outdoor areas for large groups of people on APG?

A. Continuous masking is required within indoor spaces regardless of vaccination status. Unvaccinated personnel are required to maintain mask wear in all areas of the installation, including outdoors. We do highly encourage individuals to practice physical distancing and when this cannot be maintained to wear your mask, regardless of vaccination status.

Q. Do I have to wear my mask indoors if I am alone in an enclosed office space?

A. An exception for continuously wearing masks indoors includes demasking if alone in an enclosed office space. A mask is required if your office door is open, the walls do not fully enclose the space, or another person is in the room with you.

Q. What percentage of the APG workforce is vaccinated?

A. We don't have the exact percentage of the installation vaccination rate given the voluntary nature of vaccination status reporting. We recommend following current state and county vaccination metrics reported by the CDC to inform your actions; Senior Leaders are tracking these metrics as well as local transmission rates when making installation policy decisions. We encourage anyone eligible to receive the vaccine to immediately do so. Eligible patrons can contact Kirk Army Health Clinic to set their vaccination appointment at 410-278-5475.