



DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
HEADQUARTERS, U.S. ARMY COMMUNICATIONS-ELECTRONICS COMMAND
AND ABERDEEN PROVING GROUND
BUILDING 6002, ROOM D2250
6585 SURVEILLANCE LOOP
ABERDEEN PROVING GROUND, MARYLAND 21005-1845

AMEL-CG

4 August 2021

MEMORANDUM FOR SEE DISTRIBUTION

SUBJECT: Aberdeen Proving Ground Installation Policy for Face Covering Requirements

1. References:
 - a. Centers for Disease Prevention and Control (CDC), <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov>.
 - b. Secretary of Defense memorandum (Force Health Protection Guidance (Supplement 17) Revision 1 - Department of Defense Guidance for the Use of Masks, Personal Protective Equipment, and Non-Pharmaceutical Interventions During the Coronavirus Disease 2019 Pandemic), 22 June 2021.
 - c. Secretary of Defense memorandum (Updated Mask Guidance for all DoD Installations and Other Facilities), 28 July 2021.
2. This policy applies to military personnel, DoD civilian employees, family members, DoD contractors, and all other individuals entering APG and its facilities. In accordance with the above references, 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. All personnel should continue to comply with CDC guidance regarding areas where masks should be worn, including within airports.
3. Individuals must consistently wear a mask that covers the nose and mouth and that complies with all current guidance from the CDC and the Occupational Safety and Health Administration. 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).

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4. The Senior Commander of APG retains the authority to grant 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; that are related to mask wearing by children (so long as such exceptions are consistent with CDC guideline for mask wearing by children); or other situations outside of office settings when temporary unmasking is necessary for mission requirements.

5. The following exceptions to mask wear requirements for people on the installation are granted:

- a. When an individual is alone in an office with floor-to-ceiling walls with a closed door.
- b. For brief periods of time when eating and drinking while maintaining distancing in accordance with CDC guidelines and instructions from commanders and supervisors.
- c. When the mask is required to be lowered briefly for identification or security purposes, such as when entering the installation gates, building security check points, or when stopped by security guards or APG Police.
- d. When necessary to reasonably accommodate an individual with a disability.
- e. When within their Army owned/leased housing property or quarters (dwelling plus outdoor space) either alone or with immediate family members/roommate(s).
- f. When exercising/performing physical training (PT) alone, with immediate family members or properly spaced during organized PT.
- g. When actively participating in installation approved youth recreational activities outdoors. Exception does not apply to observers, fans, etc.
- h. When operating automobiles or other motorized vehicle alone or with immediate family members. 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 IAW paragraph 5.c. of this policy.
- i. When use substantively interferes with proper wear and use of Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) necessary for the accomplishment of military duties.

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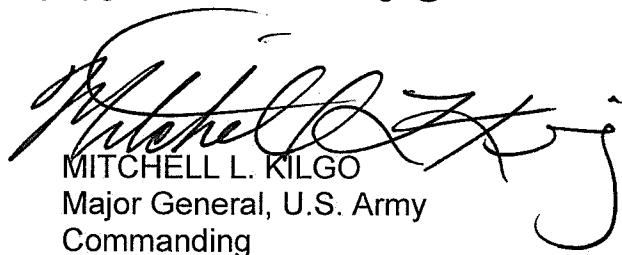
j. Masks will be worn anytime **not fully vaccinated** individuals outside of the resident's immediate family enter Army owned/leased homes. The sponsor/parent/guardian is responsible for ensuring children (17 years and younger) maintain compliance and follow current CDC guidelines for masking children.

k. When outside and individuals (non-immediate family members) are properly spaced 6-feet apart.

6. Regardless of vaccination status, all personnel should continue to follow social distancing, hand washing and cleaning practices as well as continuing to limit the number of personnel gathered when indoors.

7. Duration. This policy will remain in effect until rescinded or modified and supersedes the previous APG face covering policy dated 3 March 2021.

8. The point of contact for this memorandum is Ms. Heather Hilton, CECOM Secretary of the General Staff, 443-861-6479, usarmy.apg.cecom.mbx.amel-gs@mail.mil.



MITCHELL L. KILGO
Major General, U.S. Army
Commanding

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