



DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY  
21ST THEATER SUSTAINMENT COMMAND  
UNIT 23203  
APO AE 09263

AETS-CG

5 March 2021

MEMORANDUM FOR All Individuals Stationed, Assigned, Attached and/or Present on Military Installations within the 21st Theater Sustainment Senior Responsible Officer (SRO) Area of Operation (AO)

SUBJECT: Exception to Policy to the Department of Defense Use of Masks and Other Public Health Measures

1. References.

a. Secretary of Defense Memorandum, subject: Use of Mask and Other Public Health Measures, 4 February 2021.

b. Secretary of the Army Memorandum, subject: Use of Masks and Delegation Authority to Grant Exceptions, 24 February 2021.

2. In accordance with the delegation of exception authority in reference 1.b., I authorize the following exceptions on installations located within the jurisdiction of my Senior Responsible Officer (SRO) authority.

a. Personnel may remove their face mask while conducting physical training outdoors on post. Masks must be worn while walking to physical training locations and while waiting for physical training to begin. Personnel participating in group physical training must maintain physical distancing of at least 1.5 meters or 6 feet at all times, before, during, and after physical training. Inadvertent temporary instances where SMs may be within 6 feet or 1.5 meters of each other during individual physical training do not constitute violations of SECDEF's policy and do not warrant an exception.

b. Personnel may remove their face mask while conducting physical training in fitness facilities on post. Masks must be worn while moving between fitness machines and workout areas inside the facility.

c. Personnel may remove their face mask while walking or standing, outdoors on post, alone, with no one else present, or if only present with members of their household.

d. While present in on post housing areas, personnel are exempted from wearing a face mask while outdoors, if maintaining physical distancing of at least 1.5 meters or 6 feet from other persons or if only present with members of their household.

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e. Personnel may remove their mask in a designated break area when smoking, drinking, or eating. Personnel must maintain physical distancing of at least 1.5 meters or 6 feet at all times.

f. Personnel who work outdoors alone, with no one else present, may remove their mask as long as they maintain physical distancing of at least 1.5 meters or 6 feet from other personnel. However, personnel who work in outdoor shared spaces may temporarily remove their mask periodically throughout the day while continuing to maintain physical distancing of at least 1.5 meters or 6 feet from other personnel.

g. Personnel present in other outdoor areas, e.g., playgrounds, outdoor recreation areas, may remove their mask when alone, while no one else is present, or when present with members of their household. Reasonable efforts must be taken to ensure children maintain physical distancing of 6 feet or 1.5 meters from others in these areas. Children must wear masks in accordance with CDC guidelines.

h. Personnel may remove their mask to reasonably accommodate a religious belief.

i. Personnel may remove their mask 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 conditions places on wear of a face covering.

j. Personnel may remove their mask when use substantively interferes with the proper wear and use of personal protective equipment necessary for the accomplishment of one's military duties.

k. Personnel may remove their mask when implementation will significantly impede mission accomplishment when in environments other than office spaces that are necessary for military readiness or other situations outside office settings when temporary unmasking is necessary.

l. Personnel stationed or residing on non-DoD and non-Army installations, when not performing official duties on behalf of the Department, within my SRO AO will adhere to CDC guidelines, Host Nation law, and the respective installation commander guidance.

m. Personnel will comply with DODEA policies and standard practices while present on the premises of schools located on post.

n. General officers in the grade of O-7 and Senior Executive Service members (or equivalent) operating within the 21st TSC SRO AO may grant categorical or case-by-case exceptions to the DoD mask and public health measure requirements for their personnel which do not contradict with the application of these exceptions on

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installations within the 21st TSC SRO AO. This authority applies to locations under their exclusive physical control; unit specific training events; and other mission related exercises.

o. This memorandum does not preclude commanders from ordering stricter requirements for their personnel.

3. POC is at MAJ Vivian Leavens, Chief, National Security Law, at Vivian.m.leavens.mil@mail.mil or DSN (314) 523-0473.



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