



DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY  
HEADQUARTERS, 1ST ARMORED DIVISION AND FORT BLISS  
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FORT BLISS, TX 79916-6816

JUL 30 2021

AFBL-CG

MEMORANDUM FOR ALL SUBORDINATE COMMANDS AND TENANT UNITS AND  
INDIVIDUALS LOCATED ON FORT BLISS

SUBJECT: Eighth Amended Fort Bliss Work Safe, Live Safe Order

**PURPOSE.** This order identifies conduct that is prejudicial to good order and discipline, health, and safety of all personnel residing or working on the United States Military Reservation at Fort Bliss, Texas ("Fort Bliss"). This order rescinds and replaces the Seventh Amended Fort Bliss Work Safe, Live Safe Order issued 14 May 2021.

**AUTHORITY.** 10 U.S.C. Chapter 47 (Uniform Code of Military Justice); Title 18 United States Code §1382; Army Regulation 600-20 Army Command Policy; Memorandum, Secretary of Defense, 4 February 2021, Subject: Use of Masks and Other Public Health Measures; Memorandum, Secretary of the Army, 24 February 2021, Subject: Use of Masks and Delegation of Authority to Grant Exceptions; 22 June 2021, Subject: Force Health Protection Guidance (Supplement 17) Revision 1; Memorandum, Deputy Secretary of Defense, 28 July 2021, Subject: Updated Mask Guidelines for all DoD Installations and Other Facilities.

**APPLICABILITY.** This Order applies to all individuals located on Fort Bliss including those subject to military orders, DoD personnel, and individuals stationed, and/or attached to units on Fort Bliss, whether on or off the installation. This includes units rotating through Fort Bliss for mobilization/demobilization and/or training. For purposes of this memorandum, Fort Bliss includes the main installation, all training areas, William Beaumont Army Medical Center, and all government housing areas.

1. **STATEMENT OF MILITARY PURPOSE AND NECESSITY.** The enduring nature of the COVID-19 situation requires a balance between mitigation measures and maintaining combat readiness. These measures preserve force readiness, limit the continuing spread of the virus, and the health and welfare of Servicemembers, DA civilian employees, their families, and the local communities in which we live. The most important public health action to end the pandemic remains increasing the number of vaccinated personnel. Vaccination saves lives, prevents illness, and reduces the spread of COVID-19.

2. **COMPLIANCE WITH LOCAL HEALTH ORDERS.** All Servicemembers, family members, DA Civilians, and contractors, both on and off post, will comply with all applicable provisions of local authority (city, county, state) public health orders. In the

cases where one order is more restrictive than another, personnel must adhere to the more restrictive order.

3. **VISITATION RESTRICTIONS.** Residences may host visitors provided the total number of individuals inside the home does not exceed ten (10) people and the number of individuals within the property boundaries does not exceed twenty (20) people. This means the host may have up to twenty (20) people on the property; however, no more than ten (10) may be inside at any given time. Hosts are responsible for enforcing proper COVID mitigation measures to include proper social distancing. "Residence" means the property boundaries of the residential property, including the front and back yards. This restriction does not apply to individuals within the home that are performing essential activities or services as defined in paragraph 7, below. Individuals will wear appropriate face coverings IAW paragraph 11, below. Unvaccinated personnel, when visiting another private residence, must wear a face covering while inside that residence on Fort Bliss.

4. **OFF-POST DINING.** Servicemembers are prohibited from entering off-post restaurants or bars for the purposes of "sit-down dining" or "dining in." This includes off-post restaurants or bars that offer outdoor or patio seating. Use of delivery, drive-thru, or pickup services at off-post restaurants and bars is authorized. Nonservicemember household members are strongly encouraged to comply with the terms of this paragraph and order. Upon a determination that the total vaccination rate and COVID infection rate (over the past 14 days) among military personnel within an O-6 Commander's authority represent a reduced risk of transmission, the Senior Commander may authorize Soldiers within that unit to patronize off-post restaurants and bars. Such authorization will be granted in writing from the Senior Commander to the O-6 Commander.

5. **INCIDENTAL CONSUMPTION OF FOOD/DRINK.** Notwithstanding paragraph 4, above, Servicemembers or their household members are permitted to purchase and consume food or drink at outdoor events, outdoor activities, or outdoor locations where the service of food or drink is incidental to the activity, event, or location itself. This includes, but is not limited to the following: collegiate and professional sporting events, zoos, state and local parks, public pools, flea or farmer's markets, amusement & water parks, concerts, festivals, racetracks, and leisure activities (ex: golf courses, driving ranges, gun clubs).

6. **RETAIL SHOPPING GUIDANCE.** In-person shopping at retail venues (on or off-post) is authorized. However, Servicemembers are strongly encouraged to: (1) maximize the use of COVID mitigation measures; (2) maximize the use of pickup/delivery services; and (3) minimize the number of household members entering such locations.

7. **ESSENTIAL ACTIVITIES & ESSENTIAL TRAVEL.** For purposes of this order "essential activities or services" includes, but is not limited to: official government duties, care of others (including adult and child caregivers), and services necessary for the upkeep and maintenance of a residence or the property contained therein. The list of essential activities and essential travel authorized by the City and County of El Paso can be found at <http://www.epstrong.org/health-orders.php> and <http://www.epcounty.com/admin/covid19.htm>.

8. **GATHERINGS & MILITARY CEREMONIES.** Servicemembers are prohibited from hosting, attending, or participating in any off-post gatherings that violate public health orders of the City or County of El Paso or State of Texas. On-post social gatherings in a residence are authorized only IAW paragraph 3, above. Social gatherings outside of a residence are only authorized within Garrison buildings, facilities, or locations subject to the rules established by the Garrison Commander IAW paragraph 13, below. This prohibition does not apply to outdoor physical training conducted IAW paragraph 9, below. The first O-6 Commander in the chain of command has the authority to approve "Official Unit Events and Ceremonies" to include changes of command, award ceremonies, promotions, hails and farewells, and Soldier and Family Readiness Group (SFRG) events. Requests for approval of the event or ceremony must be made in writing to the O-6 Commander, and the request must outline planned COVID mitigation measures.

9. **UNIT FORMATIONS & PHYSICAL TRAINING.** Commanders will conduct accountability formations and other appropriate unit formations. Commanders have authority to determine the frequency and size of unit formations. While in formation outdoors, unvaccinated personnel must wear a face covering. Commanders are expected to continue to conduct unit physical training. Commanders will limit the size of physical training groups based on the ability to maintain physical distance between participants, the ability to sanitize shared equipment, and the ability to supervise other protection measures.

10. **PLACE OF DUTY & TELEWORK.** All personnel subject to this order (military and DA Civilian) will report to their regular place of duty during their normal work hours unless authorized telework. Supervisors and commanders authorized to approve telework are encouraged to balance telework options with in-person work for employees and subordinates, based on many factors, to include individual health considerations, mission requirements, and unit morale.

11. **FACE COVERING REQUIREMENT & EXCEPTIONS.** In accordance with DoD guidance, dated 28 July 2021, in areas of substantial or high community transmission (<https://covid.cdc.gov/covid-data-tracker/>), all Servicemembers, Federal employees, onsite contractor employees, and visitors, regardless of vaccination status, are required to wear a professional face covering that complies with applicable CDC guidance when

inside any facility on Fort Bliss or in any government vehicle. For purposes of this paragraph, facilities do not include Servicemembers' personal residences (housing and barracks rooms). Refer to paragraph 3 for visitation restrictions. Commander's authorities to permit exceptions to this policy will be published in subsequent guidance. This guidance will be reviewed weekly and updated as conditions permit.

a. Fully Vaccinated Personnel. Fully vaccinated personnel who are at least two weeks past their final dose are not required to wear a mask while outdoors on Fort Bliss. Servicemembers shall maintain a copy of their COVID-19 Vaccination Record Card in either hard copy or on their phone.

b. Unvaccinated Personnel. Unvaccinated personnel must wear a mask outdoors on Fort Bliss when unable to social distance (subject to the limited exceptions in paragraph 11.c. below). Unvaccinated personnel, when visiting another private residence, must wear a face covering while inside that residence on Fort Bliss. Servicemembers and Civilian employees who misrepresent their vaccination status may be subject to appropriate adverse administrative or punitive actions.

c. Exceptions. Regardless of vaccination status, in accordance with the Secretary of the Army's delegation of authority to grant exceptions to the DoD policy, dated 24 February 2021, I grant exceptions to the requirement to wear a face covering on Fort Bliss under the following circumstances: (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; (4) when necessary to reasonably accommodate an individual with a disability; and (5) children under 2 years of age should not wear face coverings. I also incorporate the exceptions for judicial proceedings listed in Memorandum, United States Army Legal Services Agency, Subject: Exception to Policy for Health Measures in Judicial Proceedings, dated 8 February 2021.

12. SPECIFIC RESTRICTIONS FOR SOLDIERS RESIDING IN BARRACKS. Soldiers residing in barracks are authorized one (1) visitor within their individual barracks room/suite. "Suite" means the common area and individual barracks rooms. The maximum number of people within a barracks suite is four (4) people. Soldiers will wear an appropriate face covering when individuals that do not reside in their suite are present. Soldiers are not required to wear a face covering while alone in their individual barracks room/suite. Soldiers residing in barracks may gather in outdoor common areas in groups no larger than ten (10) people provided they wear appropriate face coverings IAW paragraph 11, above.

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13. ON-POST ACTIVITIES. Any activity (social, recreational, religious, etc.), business, or facility open for use on Fort Bliss may be frequented and utilized by authorized patrons. Rules governing the operation (including hours and maximum occupancy) of on-post activities, business, or facilities shall be determined by the Garrison Commander. Individuals are strongly encouraged to utilize on-post resources and facilities as much as possible.

14. INSTALLATION ACCESS. The Fort Bliss Trusted Traveler Program remains suspended. Non-DoD ID cardholders may obtain a visitor pass by following the procedures on the Fort Bliss Webpage <https://home.army.mil/bliss/index.php/my-fort/all-services/gate-information>.

15. PUNITIVE ORDER. Paragraphs 2, 3, 4, 5, 8, 9, 10, 11 and 12 of this order are punitive. Persons subject to the UCMJ may be punished according to its provisions or face adverse administrative action. Persons not subject to the UCMJ may face administrative sanctions to include termination of access to Government housing facilities, Bars to the Installation, or criminal prosecution under Title 18 U.S.C. §1382.

16. INDIVIDUAL AND UNIT COMMANDER RESPONSIBILITY. Individuals subject to this order have the duty to know and understand these prohibitions as well as all applicable provisions of local authority public health orders. Commanders will ensure their personnel are briefed on the prohibitions and requirements of this order.

17. EFFECTIVE DATE. This order is effective immediately. This order will remain in effect until rescinded by me or superseded by a new order.

  
SEAN C. BERNABE  
Major General, USA  
Commanding