



DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
HEADQUARTERS
U.S. ARMY MEDICAL RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT COMMAND AND FORT DETRICK
810 SCHREIDER STREET
FORT DETRICK, MARYLAND 21702

FCMR-ZA

21 May 2021

MEMORANDUM FOR SEE DISTRIBUTION

SUBJECT: Installation Policy for Masks

1. **AUTHORITY.** 10 U.S.C. Chapter 47 (Uniform Code of Military Justice); Deputy Secretary of Defense memorandum (Updated Mask Guidelines for Vaccinated Persons) 13 May 2021; Army Regulation (AR) 600-20, Army Command Policy; AR 27-10, Military Justice.
2. **PURPOSE.** This policy establishes mask requirements for all individuals within the U.S. Army Medical Research and Development Command (USAMRDC) and Fort Detrick Senior Commander area of responsibility to protect the health and safety of the force, families, and our local communities. All previous orders regarding masks are hereby rescinded.
3. **APPLICABILITY.** This policy applies to all individuals entering Fort Detrick, Maryland (including Forest Glen Annex). Violations of this policy by service members are punishable under the Uniform Code of Military Justice. Federal employees may be subject to disciplinary action for violations of this policy. Violations of this policy may result in denial of access to the installation.
4. **FUNDAMENTAL RULES.** Taking a COVID-19 vaccine remains an individual choice. Commanders and supervisors should not ask about an employee's vaccination status or use information about an employee's vaccination status to make decisions about how and when employees will report to a workplace instead of teleworking. "Fully vaccinated" individuals are at least two weeks beyond their final dose of COVID-19 vaccine. Individuals should comply with CDC guidance regarding areas where masks should be worn off the installation.
5. **Fully vaccinated** individuals are not required to wear masks indoors or outdoors.
6. **Non-fully vaccinated** individuals are required to wear masks indoors or outdoors, and must consistently wear a mask covering the nose and mouth complying 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,

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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).

7. I retain 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.

8. The following exceptions to mask wear requirements for **non-fully vaccinated** individuals 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.

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/roommates. Masks will be worn anytime **non-fully vaccinated** individuals outside of the resident's immediate family members/roommates 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.

f. When exercising/performing physical training (PT) alone, with immediate family members/roommates or properly spaced during organized PT.

g. When actively participating in installation approved youth recreational activities outdoors. This exception does not apply to observers unable to maintain six (6) feet of physical distance.

h. When operating automobiles or other motorized vehicles alone or with immediate family members/roommates. Masks are mandatory at gates for **non-fully vaccinated**

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people when unable to maintain six (6) feet of physical distance with security personnel. Masks may be lowered at the direction of the security guard for the purpose of confirming identification IAW paragraph 8.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.

9. **All individuals** will wear masks inside Barquist Army Health Clinic, the VA Clinic, the Commissary, the Exchange, the Chapel (during religious services), the CDC/SAC, and the Visitor Control Center.

10. 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.

11. This policy is effective immediately and remains in effect until rescinded or modified.

12. The point of contact for this policy is the USAMRDC Deputy Commander at 301-619-7378.



MICHAEL J. TALLEY
Major General, U.S. Army
Commanding

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