



# FICA COVID-19 RESPONSE FACT SHEET

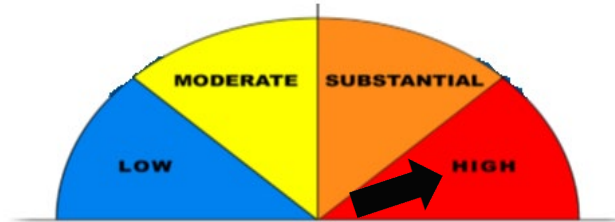
(YELLOW HASH)

As of 21 January 2022

## Policy Changes and Updates

**IAW CA GOVERNOR'S MANDATE, FICA WILL COMPLY WITH THE CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH (CDPH) REQUIREMENT THAT MASKS BE WORN IN ALL INDOOR PUBLIC SETTINGS, IRRESPECTIVE OF VACCINE STATUS, THROUGH 15 FEB 2022.**

### LEVEL OF COMMUNITY TRANSMISSION RATE



**COVID UPDATE:** Fort Irwin is at Health Protection Conditions Bravo. Infection rate has continued to increase significantly over the last week, much like the rest of the country; Fort Irwin remains at “High level of spread.” This will be re-evaluated next week.

#### 1. COVID Vaccination Policy:

- a. Gyms and fitness centers will operate at 50% capacity to mitigate the current high rate of spread of COVID.
- b. All dining establishment will operate at 50% seating capacity for indoor dining; carryout remains unlimited.
- c. **Expectation of Commanders.**
  - Commanders will strictly enforce mask wear while indoors, in multi-passenger vehicles, or while outdoors where social distancing is not possible.
  - Commanders will use discretion with regard to holding large meetings, formations, and gatherings based on unit conditions.
  - Commanders will respond rapidly to changing conditions as clusters of COVID positives are identified within their formation.
- c. The COVID vaccine is available to all TriCare beneficiaries age 5 and up. All eligible personnel are encouraged to receive the vaccine.
- d. In accordance with the SECDEF memo dated 24 Aug 21, all Active Duty Soldiers assigned to Fort Irwin, who are not otherwise exempt, must be fully vaccinated against COVID-19.
- e. In accordance with the DEPSECDEF memo dated 1 Oct 21, all DOD Civilian employees, who are not otherwise exempt, must be fully vaccinated against COVID-19.
- f. **Everyone ages 12 and older are strongly encouraged to receive a COVID Booster Shot.** Commands will report the number of Soldiers eligible and complete with booster shots to the NTC Surgeon every Friday. Individuals are eligible for the Booster 5 months after receiving the second dose of Pfizer-BioNTech or Moderna COVID-19 vaccine 2-dose series, or 2 months after receiving the J&J/Janssen COVID-19 vaccine.
- g. Soldiers and Family members may schedule their vaccination at <https://go.usa.gov/xHgSE> (Use Internet Explorer). Vaccines are available at WACH every Tuesdays and Thursdays from 1400-1700.
- h. For any questions related to vaccine availability and scheduling, please contact [usarmy.irwin.medcom-wach.mbx.covid@mail.mil](mailto:usarmy.irwin.medcom-wach.mbx.covid@mail.mil).
- i. **Free COVID-19 at-home test kits are available at [www.covidtests.gov](http://www.covidtests.gov). Each household is eligible to order four at-home test kits at no cost.**

#### 2. Mask Wear:

- a. All persons receiving services or performing duties within MEDDAC, DENTAC, CYS, or Commissary facilities will continue to wear masks regardless of community transmission rates and vaccination status.
- b. The installation rating increased to “HIGH” and Fort Irwin is following the CDPH mandate requiring the wear of masks in all indoor public settings, irrespective of vaccine status, through **15 Feb 2022**. Accordingly, all Service members, Federal employees, on-site contractor employees, residents, and visitors – regardless of vaccination status – will wear a mask while in government facilities on Fort Irwin.
- c. All unvaccinated children ages 2 and up are encouraged, per CDC guidelines, to wear masks while indoors or unable to maintain 6 feet of distance.
- d. All Service members will continue to follow local and state guidelines for mask wear when off the installation, or in a leave/pass status.

#### 3. Community and Social Events:

- a. Unit, neighborhood, religious, and social events are encouraged to promote community connection across Fort Irwin.
- b. As of 24 September 2021, DoD has restricted all meetings, events, and conferences to no more than 50 participants. This does not include exercises and mandatory training. As a result of this policy, social, community, and administrative events are limited to the 50-person cap. This policy does not apply to military classroom instruction, exercises, and field training. Units will consult their servicing judge advocate for specific guidance and interpretation. Requests for exceptions to this policy may be submitted through the NTC CG to the SECARMY.

**Paragraphs 1 and 2 are Punitive, and Punishable Under The UCMJ for Service Members.**

**This Yellow Hash Message Supersedes All Other FICA General Orders and Yellow Hash Messages Concerning COVID-19**