

Soldier use of face coverings:

Fort Irwin,

As a precautionary measure to prevent the spread of COVID-19, and to provide protection to our Soldiers, the Army is allowing Soldiers to temporarily wear face coverings. Soldiers are authorized to wear the neck gaiter and other cloth items, such as bandanas and scarves, as face coverings. Soldiers should not, however, fashion face coverings from Army Combat Uniforms or other materials that have been chemically-treated (ie with DEET, Wrinkle Free Coatings, or Permethrin). Army senior leaders are urging everyone to adhere to the latest CDC guidelines to prevent the spread of the virus, including practicing rigorous protocols for personal hygiene, staying home when sick and implementing social distancing techniques.”

Soldiers, DACs, Contractors and Family members will wear a face covering in all food establishments, Shoppettes, the PX and the Commissary. All personnel are encouraged to wear a face covering when they cannot maintain six feet of social distance in public or work centers. Courtesy patrols and facility managers will turn persons away and will allow entrance if they return with an appropriate face covering. Soldiers are not required to wear masks while conducting PT, however if Soldiers choose to wear a mask outdoors or indoors while in uniform, Leaders will support.

We ask that all Leaders, Soldiers and Family use good judgment in their choice of face covering. Soldiers will not wear masks that have printed wording, profanity, racist, demeaning or derogatory logos, script or imagery. Leaders must use their best judgment when it comes to color, fit and design of face masks and approach this as a force protection issue. Exceptions to this requirement may be submitted by local commanders or supervisors through the chain of command for CG's approval.

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