



**DEPARTMENT OF THE AIR FORCE  
6TH AIR REFUELING WING (AMC)  
MACDILL AIR FORCE BASE, FLORIDA**

6 December 2021

MEMORANDUM FOR INDIVIDUALS ON MACDILL AIR FORCE BASE (AFB)

FROM: 6 ARW/CC

SUBJECT: Updated Guidance for Use of Masks

References: (a) Deputy Secretary of Defense Memorandum, "Updated Mask Guidance for All DoD Installations and Other Facilities," 28 July 2021.  
(b) Secretary of Defense Memorandum, "Use of Masks and Other Public Health Measures," 4 February 2021.  
(c) Force Health Protection Guidance (Supplement 17) Revision 1 – Department of Defense Guidance for the Use of Masks ... During the Coronavirus Disease 2019 Pandemic, 22 June 2021.  
(d) Secretary of the Air Force Memorandum, "Department of the Air Force Guidance on Use of Masks," 16 February 2021.  
(e) 6 ARW/CC Memorandum, "Updated Guidance for Use of Masks and Other Public Health Measures," 6 August 2021, *hereby rescinded*.

1. In accordance with Reference (a) and Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) guidelines, the following measures must be followed.

a. **In areas of substantial or high community transmission** (as defined by the CDC), the DoD requires *all* Service members, Federal employees, onsite contractor employees, and visitors aged two years or older, regardless of vaccination status, to wear a mask in all indoor settings and at facilities owned, leased or otherwise controlled by DoD in areas, in accordance with References (b), (c), and (d). This mask mandate includes public facilities on MacDill AFB, such as the Dining Facility and the Short Fitness Center. When inside the Short Fitness Center, all personnel will wear masks during all modes of exercise except while actively utilizing cardio equipment. In addition, locations inside the Exchange shopping mall, shoppette, and Commissary are subject to policies set forth by AAFES and DecA, which may be more—but not less—restrictive than this guidance. Personnel performing official duties on behalf of the Department of the Air Force from any location, other than the individual's home, must continue to wear masks while on MacDill AFB, except (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.

During periods of substantial or high community transmission, fully vaccinated personnel are not required to wear masks outdoors, but must continue to follow guidance in accordance with References (b), (c), and (d). Additionally, the following mask exceptions have been approved by the Secretary of the Air Force in accordance with Reference (d). These apply to fully vaccinated

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and non-vaccinated individuals while under the mask mandate: (1) when necessary to reasonably accommodate a religious belief; (2) 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; (3) when outdoors and proper physical distancing can be maintained; (4) when actively participating in physical fitness activities either indoors or outdoors and either proper physical distancing is maintained or additional measures are implemented to mitigate the threat of transmission; (5) when an individual is alone in a vehicle or is sharing the vehicle only with members of their household; (6) when use substantively interferes with the proper wear and use of personal protective equipment necessary for the accomplishment of one's military duties; (7) when personnel are in primary aircrew positions during critical phase of flight or emergencies, or when using flight crew oxygen equipment; and (8) when clear or unrestricted visualization of verbal communication are essential to safe and effective operations.

**b. In areas of moderate or low community transmission** (as defined by the CDC), *fully vaccinated* DoD Service members, Federal employees, onsite contractors, and visitors are not required to wear a mask but are encouraged to remain physically distant, in accordance with References (b), (c), and (d). However, in accordance with Reference (c) and regardless of individual vaccination status or community transmission rates, the DoD requires use of masks in healthcare facilities such as the MacDill AFB 6th Medical Group and Sabal Park satellite clinic, and when using DoD transportation assets (including Government vehicles) and transportation hubs—excluding aircraft in their operational environment. Locations inside the Exchange shopping mall, shoppette, and Commissary are subject to policies set forth by AAFES and DecA, which may be more—but not less—restrictive than this guidance.

2. Commanders are authorized to make exceptions to this policy as necessary to ensure a safe workforce and safe environment in the work center.

3. Commanders will ensure masks worn by uniformed military members are conservative, professional, and in keeping with dignity and respect. Any cloth items worn as face coverings (i.e., neck gaiters, neck warmers, balaclavas, etc.) should be both functional and should completely cover the mouth and nose.

4. Unit commanders will enforce this policy to protect readiness and mission requirements. Failure to comply with this guidance may be a violation of Article 92, UCMJ, for Service members. Civilian employees who violate this guidance may be subject to adverse employment actions. Guests of the installation who do not follow this guidance may be barred from reentry.

BENJAMIN R. JONSSON, Colonel, USAF  
Commander