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MEMORANDUM FOR SECRETARIES OF THE MILITARY DEPARTMENTS
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DIRECTORS OF DEFENSE AGENCIES
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APR 07 2020

SUBJECT: Requirement to Wear Cloth Face Coverings on the Pentagon Reservation to Prevent the Spread of COVID-19.

Pursuant to Secretary of Defense Memorandum, "Department of Defense Guidance on the Use of Cloth Face Coverings," dated April 5, 2020 effective immediately, all military personnel, DoD civilian employees, DoD contractor employees, family members, and all other individuals who enter the Pentagon Reservation will wear cloth face coverings on the Pentagon Reservation in open public spaces and in work spaces where it is difficult to maintain at least six feet of social distance. This includes, but is not limited to, wearing cloth face coverings in open spaces such as mass transit hubs, lines to obtain products or services, parking lots, sidewalks, entrances and exits, hallways, elevators, escalators, bathrooms, concessions, and ATMs. Examples of workspaces where it is difficult to maintain at least six feet of social distance include, but are not limited to, watch stations that are close together, occupied cubicles where workers are less than six feet apart, and conference rooms. Personnel may remove facial coverings while working inside a private office, cubicle, or workspace where at least six feet of social distance is strictly maintained. Persons entering the Pentagon or Pentagon Reservation may be required to remove/raise their cloth face coverings at Pentagon Access Control Points to enable PFPA security personnel to verify facial recognition with CAC credential or Pentagon Facility Access Card (PFAC).

Cloth face coverings will slow the spread of COVID-19 by reducing transmission from people who do not realize they have contracted the virus. The Pentagon workforce will continue to execute social distancing and hand hygiene in accordance with guidance from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and best practices in Force Health Protection guidance to

stop the spread of COVID-19. The wearing of cloth face coverings does not negate the requirement to maintain social distancing and practice good hand hygiene.

<https://www.cdc.gov/handwashing/when-how-handwashing.html>.

Food preparation or concessions retailers must wear cloth face coverings throughout the performance of their duties and while in public spaces. Cleaning crews must use Personal Protective Equipment in accordance with guidelines from the CDC which are available at <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/community/organizations/cleaning-disinfection.html>

As an interim measure, all individuals are encouraged to fashion face coverings from household items or common materials, such as clean T-shirts or other clean cloths that completely cover the nose and mouth area. The Military Departments will issue guidance on uniform wear for service members. Pending this guidance, fabric in a neutral color without a pattern may be worn. The CDC guidance on use and instructions for homemade face covers may be found here: <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/prevent-getting-sick/diy-cloth-face-coverings.html>. Components will comply with applicable labor obligations to the extent such obligations do not conflict with the agency's ability to conduct operations during this emergency. Medical personal protective equipment such as N95 respirators or surgical masks will not be issued for this purpose, as these are reserved for the appropriate personnel.

Personnel for whom it is not practical or safe to wear a cloth face covering will notify their commander, supervisor, or employer and will not be required to wear a cloth face covering until their request for exception has been acted upon (normally within 24 hours). In the case of military personnel and civilian employees, exceptions may be approved by a supervisor at the grade of O-6/GS-15 (or equivalent). For contractor employees, exceptions may be approved by the contracting officer. For all others, requests for exception may be approved by the Director, WHS. Approved requests must be documented by the approval authority in writing and a copy provided to the requestor, the next higher level supervisor, and the Pentagon Force Protection Agency. Questions concerning this memorandum should be directed to the Pentagon Operations Center, (703) 697-1001.



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