MEMORANDUM FOR CHIEF MANAGEMENT OFFICER OF THE DEPARTMENT OF
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DIRECTORS OF DOD FIELD ACTIVITIES

SUBJECT: Force Health Protection Guidance (Supplement 3) – Department of Defense
Guidance for the Use of Personal Protective Equipment and Non-Pharmaceutical
Interventions during the Coronavirus Disease 2019 Outbreak

Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19) continues to spread throughout the world. The
Department remains focused on mission assurance and Force Health Protection. Well-informed
and proper use of personal protective equipment (PPE) and other non-pharmaceutical
interventions (NPI) reduces risk to our personnel and conserves scarce PPE resources. The
following recommendations shall be used to prioritize the use of PPE and provide risk reduction
interventions that can be implemented at all levels. This memorandum revises and supplements
requirements in DoD Instruction 6200.03, “Public Health Emergency Management Within the
DoD,” March 28, 2019, with respect to COVID-19.

COVID-19 Priority PPE items:

- Respirators, including N95 filtering facepiece devices. These items are not
  recommended for use outside of healthcare settings. N95 devices must be fit-tested
  on the user in order to provide optimal prevention, and should be changed between
  patients.

- Surgical masks and other facemasks. These items are intended to reduce the spread
  of viruses when worn by those known or suspected to be infected. Wearing a surgical
  mask does not provide respiratory protection to individuals who are not infected.

- Gloves, gowns, eye protection. These items should be used in the healthcare setting
  or for the care of patients with suspected or confirmed COVID-19. Between patient
  encounters, non-disposable eye protection must be cleaned and disinfected, gloves
  and gowns must be changed, and hands must be washed before and after PPE use.
Non-pharmaceutical Interventions:

PPE is one tool in a larger system of controls to limit transmission of infection. The following interventions should be consistently reinforced and practiced with and without PPE use.

- Frequent hand sanitation. This should be done using soap and water, or use of hand sanitizer when soap and water are not available.
- Properly covering coughs and sneezes.
- Social distancing, to include staying home when sick, reduction of large public gatherings, and use of telecommunications in place of face-to-face interactions.
- Frequent cleaning and disinfection of common touch points, including gym equipment, keyboards, laptops, door handles, etc.

The matrix below provides guidance for prioritizing use of PPE

<table>
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<th>Priority</th>
<th>Category</th>
<th>Examples</th>
<th>Measures</th>
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<td>1</td>
<td>COVID-19 Patients or PUI</td>
<td>Patient or person under investigation (PUI) self-care activities</td>
<td>Surgical Masks Hand Sanitizer</td>
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<td>2</td>
<td>Healthcare Delivery</td>
<td>Military Treatment Facility Patient Care Requirements Emergency Medical Services (EMS) Ancillary Healthcare Providers (e.g., Dental, Veterinary)</td>
<td>N95 Respirators Surgical Masks Eye Protection Gowns Gloves Hand Sanitizer</td>
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<td>3</td>
<td>Discrete COVID-19 Support Missions</td>
<td>COVID-19 Patient or PUI Transport Quarantine (consistent with DoDI 6200.03) and PUI Support</td>
<td>N95 Respirators Surgical Masks Eye Protection Gloves Hand Sanitizer</td>
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<td>4</td>
<td>Increased Risk in performance of official duties</td>
<td>Commanders, in consultation with their Public Health Emergency Officer, may include special public-facing duties and incorporate CDC considerations for other special groups</td>
<td>Surgical Masks Gloves Hand Sanitizer NPI Measures</td>
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<td>5</td>
<td>Non-medical considerations impacting mission</td>
<td>Host Nation Guidance/Expectations Public Relations</td>
<td>Surgical Masks* Hand Sanitizer NPI Measures</td>
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<td>Community Preparedness Requirements</td>
<td>Health Education Risk mitigation for higher-risk cohorts</td>
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*CDC does not currently recommend the general public use face masks. If commanders direct PPE use by personnel not medically indicated or those without increased exposure risk to the virus that warrant use based on workplace hazard assessments, they should assess and control for hazards from such PPE use and recognize that PPE availability may be limited. In cases of limited availability, priority of these PPE items will go to higher priority categories of persons in this matrix who require these items based on health and safety determinations.

This guidance is consistent with CDC COVID-19 guidance which should be checked regularly at: https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/index.html. My point of contact for this guidance is COL Jennifer Kishimori, who may be reached at (703) 681-8179 or jennifer.m.kishimori.mil@mail.mil.

Alexis Lasselle Ross
Performing the Duties of the Under Secretary of Defense for Personnel and Readiness

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