

Face Coverings and Mask Wear Policy

1. SOFA status personnel are no longer required to wear a mask while indoors or outdoors on USFJ installations as long as community transmission in the local area remains below the high level as defined by the CDC. Mask wear off installation is required, except as indicated in paragraph 5 below.

a. When the CDC COVID-19 Community Level is high in the local area, indoor mask-wear is required for all SOFA personnel and visitors, regardless of vaccination status.

b. When the CDC COVID-19 Community Level is medium or low in the local area, indoor mask-wear is not required for SOFA personnel or visitors, unless more rigorous measures have been implemented locally. Masks must be worn by all visitors, patients, and personnel working in DoD healthcare facilities IAW DoD and Defense Health Agency (DHA) guidance. Regardless of the CDC COVID-19 Community Level, mask wear is required for PUIs (those with symptoms), positive patients in their isolation window, and close contacts in their quarantine window.

2. Regardless of COVID-19 Community Level, masks will be worn on all DoD public transportation assets (e.g. planes, water transport, buses, trains, taxi's, and ride-shares), excluding tactical vehicles (e.g. ships, submarines, aircraft, and other tactical vehicles and craft) and buses that remain on installation or between installations.

3. Individuals will wear a mask in government cars, vans, or other low occupancy transportation assets in areas where the COVID-19 Community Level is high when traveling with others.

4. The local area is defined as the installation's local commuting area taking into account on base locations and off-base locations which SOFA affiliated personnel regularly visit or commute. In Okinawa, the local area is defined as the island of Okinawa.

5. CDC uses a combination of three metrics to define the level threshold for community transmission levels found at www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/science/community-levels.html#anchor_82254. Currently Okinawa is at the medium level.

6. Base/Camp commanders may impose mask wearing for the protection of the force on their installation.

7. While off USFJ installations, all personnel are required to wear masks regardless of vaccination status with the following exceptions:

a. When in a resident's assigned domicile.

b. For brief periods when eating or drinking.

c. When necessary to reasonably accommodate an individual with a disability.

d. When conducting physical activities outside by themselves or with cohabitants.

e. For individuals below the age of two.

f. When off-base and indoors (excluding a personal residence), personnel will wear a mask with the exception of eating or drinking.

g. When personnel are off base and outdoors, masks are not required when able to maintain social distancing. Pre-elementary (age 5 and below) children are not required to wear a mask outdoors off-base.