



DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY  
UNITED STATES ARMY JAPAN  
UNIT 45005  
APO AP 96343-5005

APAJ-CG

18 OCT 2021

MEMORANDUM FOR SEE DISTRIBUTION

SUBJECT: Mask Policy for U.S. Army Japan (USARJ)

1. REFERENCES:

a. SECRETARY OF DEFENSE MEMORANDUM, Use of Masks and Other Public Health Measures, 4 February 2021.

b. DEPUTY SECRETARY OF DEFENSE MEMORANDUM, Updated Mask Guidance for all DoD Installations and Other Facilities, 28 July 2021.

c. SECRETARY OF THE ARMY MEMORANDUM, Use of Masks and Delegation of Authority to Grant Exceptions, 24 February 2021.

d. USFJ, Force Health Protection Order 21-003, 3 September 2021 (and updates).

e. USARJ MEMORANDUM, Exceptions to Secretary of Defense Mask Policy for U.S. Army Japan, 5 August 2021.

f. CENTERS FOR DISEASE CONTROL (CDC) AND PREVENTION, Morbidity and Mortality Weekly Report Vol. 70, Guidance for Implementing COVID-19 Prevention Strategies in the Context of Varying Community Transmission Levels and Vaccination Coverage, 27 July 2021.

2. PURPOSE: This memorandum revokes and supersedes reference (e) above and provides USARJ-specific guidance in consideration of the current operating environment and the unique mission and circumstances in Japan.

3. APPLICABILITY: This memorandum applies, regardless of vaccination status, to all USARJ personnel and individuals on USARJ installations.

4. POLICY: All individuals on USARJ installations and all individuals performing official duties on behalf of USARJ from any location will wear masks in accordance with the below directions and posted mask wear signs.

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5. FULLY VACCINATED PERSONNEL WITHIN USARJ INSTALLATIONS: Personnel that are fully vaccinated against COVID-19 are no longer required to wear a mask on USARJ installations, subject to the following exceptions:

- a. All personnel will wear masks when interacting with host nation or third country nationals, including, but not limited to: MLC, IHA, MC, and JSDF personnel.
- b. All personnel will wear masks in all medical treatment facilities.
- c. All personnel will wear masks if commanders establish a more restrictive mask policy for vaccinated personnel within their individual facilities and areas of responsibility based on their unique mission and work environment.

6. NON-VACCINATED PERSONNEL WITHIN USARJ INSTALLATIONS: Personnel that are not fully vaccinated will wear masks at all times, subject to the following exceptions:

- a. When alone in an office with floor-to-ceiling walls with a closed door.
- b. When operating a private vehicle with only family members in the vehicle or when in personal living quarters or assigned residence when no non-family members are present.
- c. For brief periods of time when eating and drinking while maintaining distance IAW CDC guidelines.
- d. When engaged in physical fitness activities provided that social distancing can be maintained, to include outdoors and installation fitness centers.
- e. When speaking to a group in an official capacity, such as official unit functions or religious services, provided that social distancing can be maintained.
- f. Wind instrument and vocal musicians may remove masks while actively performing or rehearsing, provided that social distancing can be maintained.
- g. When the mask is required to be lowered briefly for identification or security purposes.
- h. When necessary to reasonably accommodate an unvaccinated individual with a disability.

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7. MASK WEAR OUTSIDE OF USARJ INSTALLATIONS: All personnel will continue to follow mask guidance from the Government of Japan. Masks are required when in public and around others. Masks are required in all public transit facilities and all public transportation.

8. CASE-BY-CASE EXCEPTIONS: Case-by-case exceptions to this mask policy must be submitted by the endorsing commander, through the chain of command, to me for decision. Subordinate commanders may impose additional restrictions consistent with references, this memorandum, CDC guidelines, or on the advice of competent medical authorities. Subordinate commanders may not unilaterally grant exceptions or exemptions to this policy.

9. EFFECTIVE DATE: This policy is effective immediately. It will remain in effect until rescinded by me.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'JB Vowell', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

JB VOWELL  
MG, USA  
Commanding

DISTRIBUTION:

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Special