



9 April 2020

JBSA Teammates,

This memo provides additional guidance for JBSA units regarding cloth face coverings. DoD guidance issued on 5 Apr 20 states all individuals on DoD property, installations, and facilities, to the extent practical, will wear cloth face coverings when they cannot maintain 6 foot physical distance in public areas or work centers. Public areas include all commerce and service facilities including the Commissary and Exchange. This does not apply to a service and family member's personal residence on a military installation and does not apply to children under the age of 2 years old or anyone that has trouble breathing.

Units are encouraged to purchase cloth face coverings from local sources using individual unit Government Purchase Cards (GPC). JBSA units must abide by the current GPC dollar value thresholds for COVID-19 cloth face covering requirements.

The face mask/covering shall:

- 1) Fit snugly but comfortably against the side of the face and cover the mouth and nose
- 2) Be secured with ties, ear loops, or wrap-around fabric (e.g. balaclavas)
- 3) Include at a minimum two layers of two, 10-by-6-inch rectangles of cotton fabric (tightly woven cotton, such as quilting fabric or cotton sheets)
- 4) Allow for breathing without restriction
- 5) Have the ability to be laundered and machine dried without damage or change to shape for 75 launderings

Commanders will ensure face coverings 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 functional, cleaned, and maintained. As safety is the primary concern, until issued items are fully available, commanders and units may deviate in regard to uniformity while maintaining other standards.

Any issuance of surgical masks and N95 respirators should be reserved for health care workers. The use of a cloth face covering does not prevent the wearer from getting sick or eliminate the need to continue the primary mitigation efforts to stop the spread of COVID-19. The cloth face covering is to help prevent those who are asymptomatic from transmitting, more than protecting oneself from potentially contracting the virus. The cloth face covering is not a substitute for physical distancing.

Thank you for your continued support.

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