



**DEPARTMENT OF THE NAVY**  
COMMANDER US NAVAL FORCES JAPAN  
COMMANDER NAVY REGION JAPAN  
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Ser N00/0111  
**1 Jun 22**

MEMORANDUM

From: Commander, U.S. Naval Forces Japan  
To: Distribution

Subj: U.S. NAVAL FORCES JAPAN MASK POLICY (**UPDATE X**)

Ref: (a) **COMNAVFOR Japan Memo 5000 Ser/N00/0750 dtd 29 Apr 22**  
(b) **OSD Memo dtd 4 Apr 22**  
(c) **COMUSFJ Force Public Health Order 22-004 dtd 01 Jun 22**

1. U.S. Naval Forces Japan Mask Policy (**Update IX**) from reference (a) is superseded by this memorandum. Discontinue distribution of reference (a).
2. Areas with High COVID-19 Community Transmission Level. In accordance with reference (b), in areas of high community transmission, Department of Defense (DoD) requires all service members, federal employees, onsite contractor employees, and visitors, regardless of vaccination status, to wear a mask in an indoor setting in installations and other facilities owned, leased or otherwise controlled by DoD. In addition, individuals will wear a mask in Government cars, vans, or other low occupancy transportation assets when traveling with others.
3. Areas with Medium or Low COVID-19 Community Transmission Levels. In areas with medium or low community transmission, and in accordance with references (b) and (c), mask wear is not mandatory at DoD facilities. Additionally, Commander, U.S. Naval Forces Japan (CNFJ) installations are required to comply with the following.
  - a. Installation Commanders may impose additional mask requirements for specific locations or specific events for the health and preservation of DoD/host nation affiliated personnel.
  - b. Indoors in areas without high community transmission, Installation Commanders, Tenant Commanding Officers, and Tenant Facility Managers are authorized to determine mask policies for the areas under their cognizance. Any area where mask use is required must be clearly marked to include identification of the policy authorizing official. By default, all indoor areas that are not specifically marked should be considered mask wear optional areas.
  - c. Individuals riding buses, vans, or cars that remain on SOFA installations or travel directly between SOFA installations are not required to wear a mask when COVID-19 Community Level is Low or Medium (e.g. school buses, on-base bus routes, on base taxis), when authorized by the Installation Commanding Officer or transportation operating authority. Any transportation where mask use is required must be clearly marked to include identification of the policy authorizing official. By default, all on base transportation that is not specifically marked should be considered mask wear optional areas.

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4. All Areas Regardless of COVID-19 Community Transmission Levels

- a. Individuals may elect to wear a mask when not required by this guidance.
- b. All personnel shall carry a mask on their person or in their possession at all times so that they may don a mask when required in order to comply with reference (c) and this memorandum.
- c. Masks must be worn by all visitors, patients, and personnel working in DoD health care facilities.
- d. Except where exempted in paragraph 3.c., masks shall be worn on all DoD public transportation assets (e.g., transport aircraft, water transport, buses, taxis, and ride-shares). This requirement does not extend to tactical military vehicles and craft (e.g., ships, submarines, tactical aircraft).
- e. CNFJ personnel onboard a non-Navy DoD installation shall follow the mask wear policies of their host installation.

5. **Off Installation in Japan, Regardless of COVID-19 Community Transmission Levels. When more restrictive than below, personnel should follow host nation policies or posted markings regarding mask wear. Personnel are expected to respect local community policies.**

- a. Off installation, all personnel are required to wear masks **indoors** regardless of vaccination status at all times except: while inside a domicile or lodging location, while in a personally owned vehicle (POV), or while actively eating or drinking.
- b. Off installation, personnel may remove masks when outdoors and able to continuously maintain social distancing (2m) measures from non-SOFA personnel. Unmasked social distancing is not required for family members and other SOFA personnel who regularly interact with each other. Pre-elementary (age 5 and below) children are not required to wear a mask outdoors.**
- c. Mask wear remains mandatory on all public transportation, to include airport terminals, train stations and platforms, and bus stops.**

6. Determination of COVID-19 Community Transmission levels will be based upon measurement of community transmission case rates in prefectures/localities in which CNFJ installations are located. Installation mask wear requirements and associated community transmission case rates will be promulgated weekly by CNFJ.

7. Commanders are responsible for ensuring proper mask utilization by all assigned personnel, to include proper wear in areas not under their direct cognizance both on and off installation

8. This guidance will remain in place until further notice unless otherwise rescinded, extended, or superseded. I have determined that the restrictions in this order are reasonably necessary and calculated to accomplish the military mission of U.S. Naval Forces Japan/Navy Region Japan and to safeguard the health, safety and welfare of personnel assigned to or residing onboard our installations. Violations by military personnel are subject to punishment under Article 92, Uniform Code of Military Justice, as violations of a lawful general order. Failures to comply with this order by U.S. civilian employees may result in administrative (debarment, curtailment) or disciplinary

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action. Violations by dependents may result in administrative sanctions, up to and including loss of command sponsorship and early return of dependents.



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