

DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY UNITED STATES ARMY TRAINING CENTER AND FORT JACKSON 2400 JACKSON BOULEVARD FORT JACKSON, SOUTH CAROLINA 29207-5048

ATZJ-CG

GENERAL ORDER NUMBER 4

TITLE. Orders for Fort Jackson Personnel during the COVID-19 Public Health Emergency

PURPOSE. This General Order adjusts masking requirements for vaccinated personnel, and emphasizes COVID-19 related safety measures.

AUTHORITY. Title 10 United States Code (U.S.C.) Chapter 47 (Uniform Code of Military Justice); DoDI 6200.03, Public Health Emergency Management (PHEM) within the DoD, 28 March 2019; Army Regulation 600-20, Army Command Policy 24 July 2020; Army Regulation 27-10, Military Justice, 20 November 2020.

REFERENCES.

- a. Department of Defense Guidance available at https://www.defense.gov/Explore/Spotlight/Coronavirus/Latest-DOD-Guidance/
- b. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention COVID-19 Guidance available at https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/index.html
- c. U.S. Army Training Center and Fort Jackson (USATC&FJ) Restriction of Movement, 27 August 2020
 - d. General Order #3, 10 November 2021
- e. Updated Guidance for Mask and Screening Testing for all Department of Defense Installations and Other Facilities, 1 March 2022
- f. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention Community levels by county available at https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/your-health/covid-by-county.html

DEFINITIONS.

- a. Fully vaccinated. Individuals are considered fully vaccinated two weeks after their second dose in a two-dose series (such as the Pfizer or Moderna vaccines) or two weeks after a single-dose vaccine (such as Johnson & Johnson's vaccine).
- b. Up to date on COVID-19 vaccinations: Individuals are considered up to date if they meet any of the following criteria. 1) Are fully vaccinated against COVID-19 as described in paragraph a above AND have received an additional booster dose of any of the COVID-19 vaccines listed in paragraph a above. 2) Are fully vaccinated against

COVID-19 with the Pfizer or Moderna vaccine, and it has been less than 5 months since their second dose of one of these vaccines. 3) Are fully vaccinated against COVID-19 with the Johnson and Johnson vaccine, and it has been less than 2 months since they were vaccinated with this vaccine. 4) Are fully vaccinated against COVID-19 as described in paragraph a above but are too young to be eligible for a booster dose of a COVID-19 vaccine (11 years old or younger).

- b. Isolation. The separation and restriction of the movement of those who are sick with a communicable disease (e.g., COVID-19) from those who are not sick, for a certain period of time (isolation time periods will be issued via FRAGOs based on CDC guidance).
- c. Quarantine. The separation and restriction of the movement of those who have been exposed to a communicable disease (e.g., COVID-19) but do not show symptoms, from those who have not been so exposed, for a certain period of time (quarantine time periods will be issued via FRAGOs based on CDC guidance).
- d. Restriction of movement (ROM). The limited permissible actions of an individual or group to prevent or diminish the transmission of a communicable disease (e.g., COVID-19). This term may be used alone or in conjunction with isolation or quarantine.
- e. Official visitors. Non-DoD individuals seeking access, one time or recurring, in association with the performance of official DOD business (e.g., to attend a meeting), but who do not have credentials. This definition does not include personnel receiving ad hoc access to DOD facilities (e.g., delivery personnel, taxi services); to individuals who have access to the grounds of, but not the buildings on, DOD installations (e.g., groundskeepers, fuel delivery personnel); or personnel accessing DOD facilities to receive a public benefit (e.g., commissary, post exchange, museum, air show, military medical treatment facility, Morale Welfare and Recreation resources).

APPLICABILITY.

- a. This General Order applies to all individuals subject to military orders and stationed, assigned, and/or attached to Fort Jackson, South Carolina. This applies to all civilian employees and contractors on Fort Jackson. It also provides guidelines to members of the Fort Jackson community not subject to military orders.
- b. The provisions of this General Order apply to trainees and students (including all officers and enlisted personnel in any Army school on Fort Jackson) when not in conflict with other Initial Military Training (IMT) specific guidance and procedures. Commanders must ensure proper medical screening and quarantine for all arriving trainees and students, regardless of vaccination status, as specified in this order.

c. Nothing in this order should be construed to limit anyone's ability to seek necessary medical care and/or evaluation for medical clearance.

RESCISSION. General Order #3, published 10 November 2021 (listed as reference d above), and U.S. Army Training Center and Fort Jackson (USATC&FJ) Restriction of Movement published 27 August 2020 (listed as reference c) are hereby rescinded.

Statement of Military Purpose and Necessity.

- a. The recent dramatic fluctuation in the number of COVID-19 cases in the greater Columbia, SC area, led the command to reassess Fort Jackson's current COVID-19 protective measures and posture. As a result, I have determined that adjusting certain COVID-19 restrictions is appropriate. While Fort Jackson will continue to operate at HPCON A+, the Declared Public Health Emergency remains in effect.
- b. Each year, Fort Jackson transforms tens of thousands of civilians into Soldiers, and then sends those new Soldiers to installations across America and the world. In light of Fort Jackson's unique mission, it is vital that we do our part to contain the spread of the novel coronavirus (COVID-19), so that Fort Jackson is not responsible for an outbreak that impacts the Army's ability to defend the nation.
- c. While a portion of the Fort Jackson community remains unvaccinated, not fully vaccinated, or are not up to date with their vaccinations, and while variants continue to travel through the population, restrictions and modifications of certain activities on Fort Jackson are essential to maintaining good order and discipline, ensuring optimum readiness of our force, and most importantly, preserving the health and safety of our servicemembers, Civilians, and Family Members.
- 2. **Penalties for Violation**. This General Order is punitive and individuals may be punished under the UCMJ for violating sections 3, 4, 5, 6, and 7. Any individual not subject to the UCMJ who refuses to obey, or otherwise violates, an order during this declared public health emergency may be temporarily or permanently barred from Fort Jackson, and may be subject to other disciplinary actions.

3. **ROM**.

a. Servicemembers traveling between installations within the United States are not required to complete a Restriction of Movement (ROM) upon arrival at their destination unless instructed differently by their gaining unit. For servicemembers who are not fully vaccinated and traveling from foreign countries, travel-associated ROM will be 7 days with a negative COVID-19 test. Those under ROM may break ROM for the sole purpose of being tested and then must immediately resume ROM. This COVID-19 test must occur within 48 hours of the end of the 7-day ROM (day 6 to 7 of ROM), and the test result must have returned as negative before ROM may be ended.

- b. All servicemembers and DA Civilians who are not fully vaccinated or not up to date on their COVID-19 vaccines and who have come into close contact with a COVID-19 positive person must quarantine for at least 5 days. These individuals will wear a mask when around others while on Ft. Jackson for an additional 5 days after the quarantine period. Supervisors may attempt to identify and alert those who have been in contact with an employee who tests positive for COVID-19. This can be done by identifying contacts starting from two days before the COVID-19 positive person developed symptoms (or two days before the COVID-19 positive person tested positive if the positive person had no symptoms) until the COVID-19 person was isolated from others. Supervisors will contact Ft. Jackson Preventive Medicine at (803)351-6394 if further guidance is needed. Close contact is defined as being within 6 feet of a COVID-19 positive person for fifteen minutes within a 24-hour period, regardless of masking status. The fifteen minutes can be non-consecutive.
- c. For all servicemembers and DA Civilians attached to Ft. Jackson who have traveled to a foreign country and are not fully vaccinated or not up to date on their COVID-19 vaccines, Battalion Commanders or civilian supervisor equivalent will conduct risk-based screening to determine if a ROM is necessary, and as indicated by current local/state/CDC guidance. If the risk-based screening indicates that a ROM is necessary, the ROM will be performed in accordance with paragraph 3a above and in compliance with all applicable DOD and service guidance.

4. Testing.

- a. In accordance with HQDA orders, DA personnel (military and civilian), as well as DA contractor personnel, who are not fully vaccinated against COVID-19 will be tested at least weekly. Implementation policy will be published in a FRAGO at a later date.
- b. Official visitor access requires attestation of vaccination status on the DD Form 3150. Official visitors who are not fully vaccinated or who choose not to disclose their vaccination status must produce a negative COVID-19 test result from a test taken within 72 hours of entering any federal building on Ft. Jackson.

Directives.

- a. All personnel shall familiarize themselves and comply with the guidance in references a and b. Where local installation force health protection (FHP) measures are more restrictive than those in the references, comply with the local FHP measures.
- b. In accordance with updated CDC guidance and references e and f, masking while indoors in facilities on Fort Jackson is optional, with the following exceptions.
- (1) All individuals, regardless of vaccination status, will wear a mask inside any medical or dental facility on Fort Jackson.

- (2) Staff and children/youth over the age of 2, working/participating in Child Development Centers will be required to wear a mask inside CDC facilities.
- (3) Servicemembers will wear a mask, regardless of vaccination status, when traveling on any form of public transportation, in U.S. transportation hubs such as airports and stations, or when traveling outside of the United States.
- (4) All personnel confirmed positive for COVID-19 will wear a mask, regardless of vaccination status, in all Fort Jackson facilities, for 5 days after completing their isolation period.
- (5) All personnel who are not fully vaccinated or not up to date on their COVID-19 vaccines who have quarantined for 5 days because of coming into close contact with a COVID-19 positive person will wear a mask when around others while on Ft. Jackson for an additional 5 days after the quarantine period.
- (6) When required, face masks must be properly worn, covering the nose and mouth, and be neat in appearance. For servicemembers, face masks must be consistent with the guidance in Army Regulation 670-1, or similar service regulation, as applicable. Masks may not be made from military uniforms due to chemicals imbedded in the material. Novelty or non-protective masks, masks with ventilation valves, or face shields are not authorized as a substitute for masks. Surgical masks or N-95 masks are the recommended masks for all personnel. If cloth masks are worn, they should be multi-layered and made with tightly woven, breathable fabric. The cloth mask should block light when held up to a light source. Surgical grade masks are required to enter medical and dental facilities. Reception Battalion, BCT Yellow Phase, and the COVID-19 Recovery Company will wear surgical grade masks.
- c. All personnel on Fort Jackson will continue to adhere to social distancing guidance, remaining six feet away from others whenever possible. Instructions for COVID-19 testing are found in the Attachment.
- d. All personnel assigned, in-training, or TDY to Fort Jackson are highly encouraged to practice proper social distancing and mask-wearing protocols while in crowded settings particularly off-post, and to avoid crowded settings where mask-wearing and social distancing protocols are not followed.
- e. When masking is required, masks may be removed in the following circumstances:
 - (1) For brief periods of time when eating and drinking.
 - (2) When lowered briefly for identification or security purposes.

- (3) When necessary to reasonably accommodate an individual with a disability.
- (4) Any event when the training audience or cadre must wear eye protection.
- (5) When alone in an office in a Fort Jackson facility where masking is required.
- f. Graduation Ceremonies/ Family Day. Masking for IET graduation attendees and Family Day activities is not required. Specific protocols and procedures for mode of travel for trainees to AIT will be updated periodically and distributed through OPORDs and FRAGOs.
- g. Maintaining in-office workforce levels between 50%-100%, as determined by Commanders/Directors based upon mission requirements, is authorized.
- h. Meetings, events, and conferences sponsored by the Army with more than 50 participants require approval from the Secretary of the Army or her Principal Deputy. Units seeking approval for such events may contact Ft. Jackson Preventive Medicine at (803) 351-6394 for additional guidance on creating and submitting risk assessments for these events. Indoor and outdoor gatherings on Fort Jackson that are not sponsored by the Army are restricted to 50 people or less unless approved by me. Social distancing and sanitation protocols will continue to be emphasized. Family Day and Graduation day do not require approval from the Secretary of the Army or her Principal Deputy.
- i. All military personnel who believe they have been in direct physical contact with anyone who is confirmed positive for COVID-19, or who begin to have symptoms of COVID-19 themselves, must immediately report this information to their chain of command. Civilian employees in this situation must notify their supervisors. A leader from the military personnel's chain of command or civilian's supervisor will contact the Moncrief Army Health Clinic (MAHC) Department of Preventive Medicine at (803) 351-6394 if they have any questions about quarantine protocols for these personnel. If COVID-19 symptoms become severe, personnel will contact 911 to facilitate screening and care by a medical professional. Instructions for COVID-19 testing are found in the Attachment.
- j. All military personnel who are confirmed positive for COVID-19 will notify their chain of command immediately. Company Commanders, First Sergeants, or Battalion Command Sergeants Major will report all military cases of COVID-19 to Ft. Jackson Preventive Medicine at (803) 351-6394 if the COVID-19 test was conducted outside of a Military Treatment Facility (MTF).
- k. All DA/DoD civilian and contractor employees who are confirmed positive for COVID-19 will notify their supervisors immediately. The supervisor will report all cases of COVID-19 to the Ft. Jackson Preventive Medicine at (803) 351-6394 if the COVID-19 test was conducted outside of an MTF.

- I. Personnel who are up to date on their COVID-19 vaccinations, or personnel who have tested positive for COVID-19 within the past 90 days and have met CDC guidance for clearing isolation, may return to the worksite and are not required to quarantine or ROM, even if they have been in close contact with someone who is suspected or confirmed to be infected with COVID-19, provided they remain asymptomatic.
- m. All personnel confirmed positive for COVID-19 will isolate under ROM in designated on-post facilities or their off-post residences for a period of no less than 5 days as directed by medical and public health authorities.

Prohibited Activities.

- a. Hosting visitors in on-post residences who have been recently exposed to COVID-19 or are experiencing any symptoms.
- b. Entering on-post quarantine or isolation facilities, except for those who are in quarantine or isolation, and for those assigned duties by me or my designees.
- c. Individuals in quarantine or isolation in a private residence may not receive guests from outside their immediate household, unless authorized by their command or medical provider. Individuals in on-post quarantine or isolation that is not in a private residence may not receive guests, unless authorized by their command or medical provider.

7. Travel Restrictions.

- a. For fully vaccinated personnel, official travel will be not be restricted. Official travel for persons who are not fully vaccinated will be approved only on a mission critical basis, as determined by the Under Secretary of the Army.
- b. Personnel in the PCS window who have a pending vaccination exemption require an approved ETP from the Under Secretary of the Army prior to any movement.
- c. Commanders and supervisors will establish a means of communication with all Soldiers throughout the leave and pass period and post-travel, as well as prescribing actions for their particular circumstances.
- d. Outbound OCONUS PCS personnel will receive ROM/Quarantine/PCR-testing requirements IAW assignment instructions and may be required to provide proof of vaccination status prior to PCS. Inbound OCONUS PCS personnel will arrange to be tested for COVID-19, 3 to 5 days after CONUS entry, regardless of vaccination status.

- e. For international travel, personnel must comply with applicable GCC and HN requirements, to include any country specific ROM requirements. Utilize the Foreign Travel Clearance guide at https://www.fcg.pentagon.mil/fcg.cfm.
- 8. Waivers and Amendments. Requests for waivers of any provision of this General Order must be submitted in writing by the endorsing commander, through the chain of command, to me for decision. Emergency situations involving possible loss of life, limb, or eyesight do not require prior approval. Subordinate commanders will not impose additional restrictions inconsistent with this General Order without a legal review and my written approval.
- 9. **Unit Commander Responsibility**. Unit commanders shall ensure their personnel are briefed on the directives, prohibitions, and guidelines of this order.
- 10. **Severability and Modifications**. Individual provisions of this General Order may be subsequently modified by me or a higher authority. Rescission or modification of some provisions does not affect all other provisions, which will remain in force.

11. **Effective Date/Expiration**. This General Order is effective immediately and will remain in effect until rescinded in writing by my successor or me.

Encl as

PATRICK R. MICHAELIS Brigadier General, U.S. Army Commanding