

Commandant Sends # 6: Mask policy update

By Public Affairs Office 01 March 2022



Col. Richard Bell, Associate Dean, removes his mask following new policy from the Senior Mission Commander at Carlisle Barracks.

Teammates,

I'll begin by expressing my appreciation of the workforce, students, and family members whose efforts have helped to minimize COVID-19 incidents and enabled us to complete our missions safely.

Effective immediately, masks are no longer required indoors in DoD buildings at Carlisle Barracks regardless of vaccination status – with the exception of healthcare facilities, and select facilities as posted or directed by their external headquarters. You will be expected to wear a mask at the Dunham Health Clinic and Carlisle Barracks Dental Clinic. This decision follows new guidelines from the Center for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC).

As of March 11, the Chief of the Secretary of Defense released guidance to commanders to align our COVID environment assessments with the new CDC guidance—based on those metrics, our neighboring Cumberland County community is now assessed at, “Medium,” transmission levels. Should the community transmission rates change to, “High,” we will go back to wearing masks indoors per the CDC guidance.

Individuals may of course, choose to wear a mask regardless of the COVID-19 Community Level.

Some things have not changed—the best defense against COVID-19 remains vaccination against the disease for all personnel. Every uniformed service member is required to receive an FDA-authorized vaccine, unless an exception to policy has been requested and granted.

Dunham Army Health Clinic offers COVID-19 vaccines Tuesday mornings, 8:00 am to 12:30 pm on a walk-in basis for individuals 12 and up. Children’s vaccines are available Friday afternoons, from 1:00 to 3:30 pm on a walk-in basis. Dunham is authorized to give COVID-19 vaccines to beneficiaries 5 years and older, and boosters to those 12 and older, per CDC guidelines.

Social distancing measures remain in place, generally enforcing a 3-foot distance between people in most Carlisle Barracks community spaces. This applies to all personnel, regardless of the sponsoring agency.

We have demonstrated maturity and teamwork – let’s maintain that attitude, even as we ease the mask policy and enjoy the benefits of face-to-face learning and work.

Strength & Wisdom!

MG David C. Hill

Commandant

United States Army War College