



DEPARTMENT OF THE AIR FORCE
WASHINGTON DC

06 April 2020

MEMORANDUM FOR ALL SAF/AQ EMPLOYEES

FROM: SAF/AQ

SUBJECT: Expectations on the Use of Cloth Face Coverings

References: (a) Secretary of Defense Memorandum, "Department of Defense Guidance on the Use of Cloth Face Coverings", 5 April 2020
(b) CS316353B, Center for Disease Control Face Covering Fact Sheet, 4 April 20
(c) Air Force Surgeon General Memorandum, "Medical Guidance on 3D Printed N-95 Respirators, Face Masks, and N-95 Mask Shields/Covers", 1 April 2020

Department of the Air Force acquisition leadership is committed to taking every precaution to ensure the health and well-being of our military members, civilian employees, contractors, and families in response to the Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19) pandemic. We support, and will continue to implement, all measures necessary to mitigate risks to the spread of the disease.

As detailed in Reference b, the Center for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) recommends wearing cloth face coverings in public settings where other physical distancing measures are difficult to maintain, especially in areas of significant community-based transmission. All SAF/AQ employees, contractors, and their families are strongly encouraged to follow CDC guidelines on the use of cloth face coverings. When using 3D fabricated Personnel Protective Equipment (PPE), they also should follow the Air Force Surgeon General's guidance as provided in Reference c.

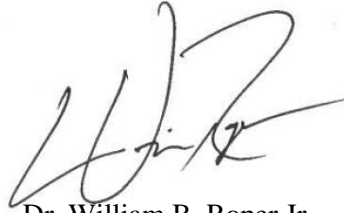
Per the Secretary of Defense's direction in Reference a, to the extent practical without significantly impacting mission essential activities, all acquisition employees and contractors on DoD installations and facilities, and those traveling for mission essential official duties, should wear cloth face coverings when they cannot maintain six feet of physical distance in public areas or work centers.

Personnel should consult with legal and comptroller prior to purchasing masks and face coverings with existing Operations and Maintenance (O&M) funds. Where mask and face covering purchases are allowed, N-95 and surgical masks should be reserved for health care workers during this challenging time.

Exceptions to the guidance must be approved by the first O-6 or civilian equivalent in the chain of command when implementation is not practical. Exceptions should be shared with Mr. Sammy Slade, SAF AQH, for situational awareness.

The use of a cloth face covering does not prevent the wearer from getting sick or eliminate the need to continue the primary mitigation of physical distancing to stop the spread of COVID-19. It is to help prevent those who are asymptomatic from transmitting, more than protecting individuals from potentially contracting the virus. All personnel should continue to maintain six feet between themselves and others whenever possible.

Please continue to check the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) website for more information (<https://www.cdc.gov/>). Thank you for all you are doing during this challenging time. As the COVID-19 crisis evolves, so will we. We are committed to taking every precaution to keep our workforce, contractors, and all of our families safe while ensuring our national security, now and in future, is never in question.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'W. B. Roper Jr.', written in a cursive style.

Dr. William B. Roper Jr
Assistant Secretary of the Air Force
Acquisition, Technology, and Logistics