



**DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY**  
**HEADQUARTERS, III CORPS AND FORT HOOD**  
**1001 761ST TANK BATTALION AVENUE**  
**FORT HOOD, TEXAS 76549-5000**

AFZF-CG

**MAR 08 2021**

**GENERAL ORDER NUMBER 1: COVID-19 Pandemic Personal Conduct General Order under the Authority of the III Corps and Fort Hood Commander**

**PURPOSE.** This General Order provides guidance and identifies conduct that is prejudicial to good order and discipline, health, and safety of all military personnel residing or working on Fort Hood.

**AUTHORITY.** 10 U.S.C. Chapter 47 (Uniform Code of Military Justice); Army Regulation 600-20; Memorandum, Secretary of Defense, 4 February 2021, subject: Use of Masks and Other Public Health Measures; Memorandum, Secretary of the Army, 24 February 2021, subject: Use of Masks and Delegation of Authority to Grant Exceptions

**APPLICABILITY.** This General Order applies to all individuals while located on Fort Hood and personnel performing official duties off-post.

**1. BACKGROUND.** On 2 March 2021, the Governor of Texas announced Executive Order GA-34 relating to the opening of Texas in response to the changing status of the COVID-19 threat. Effective 10 March 2021, Executive Order GA-34 substantially decreases the previous restrictions of mask-wearing and social gathering within the state. It is the duty of all service members and their dependents in Texas to comply with the laws and orders of the State of Texas and directives of local authorities. However, even when off-duty and off-post, members of the Fort Hood community are encouraged to wear masks when social distancing cannot be maintained.

**2. STATEMENT OF MILITARY PURPOSE AND NECESSITY.** Vigilance and mitigation efforts are still necessary to protect the Fort Hood community from the spread of COVID-19.

**3. TRAVEL.** There is no change to the restricted area list for service members. The following counties remain off limits to all personnel, regardless of vaccination status: Travis County (which includes Austin), Harris County, Tarrant County, Dallas County, and Bexar County. Service members whose normal place of residence is located within one of these counties, and service members traveling to and from these counties on official duty are exempt from this restriction and should minimize nonessential activities and travel to mitigate the spread of COVID-19.

a. For fully-vaccinated personnel, the first O-3 commander in the service member's chain of command is the approval authority for requests to travel to locations in the counties listed above. Any leave/pass requests for other areas will be processed in accordance with normal unit policies.

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b. For unvaccinated personnel, the first O-5 commander in the service member's chain of command is the approval authority for requests for leave/pass outside the local area (100 mile radius from Fort Hood), and to the counties listed above.

4. MASKS.

a. Wear of Masks. In accordance with the most recent Department of Defense (DoD) guidance, dated 4 February 2021, I order all individuals performing official duties to wear masks. This order includes when individuals are performing official duties off-post and in outdoor shared spaces. While on Fort Hood, individuals must wear masks continuously except: (1) when an individual is alone in an office with floor-to-ceiling walls; (2) for brief periods of time when eating and drinking while maintaining distancing in accordance with CDC guidelines and instructions from commanders and supervisors; (3) when the mask is required to be lowered briefly for identification or security purposes; and (4) when necessary to reasonably accommodate an individual with a disability.

b. Exceptions. In accordance with the Secretary of the Army's delegation of authority to grant exceptions to the DoD policy, dated 24 February 2021, I grant exceptions to the requirement to wear a mask on Fort Hood and when performing official duties off-post under the following circumstances: (1) when walking outside when social distancing of 6 feet can be maintained; (2) while conducting physical training when social distancing of 6 feet can be maintained; (3) while executing a graded event during the ACFT; (4) for outdoor workers or when working with heavy machinery in situations where mask usage could increase heat-related injury or safety concerns and social distancing can be maintained. Regardless of the above exceptions, I expect everyone to have a mask on their person at all times in preparation to wear as necessary.

5. PCS POLICY.

a. The Exception to Policy (ETP) Approval Authority for Permanent Change of Station (PCS) moves remains at the O-6 Commander level as published in Appendix 2 to ANNEX F (Personnel Service Support) to III CORPS OPORD PW 20-08-0080 (ENDURING CORONAVIRUS RESPONSE). Leave in conjunction with a PCS will normally be limited to the authorized travel days as outlined in the Joint Travel Regulations. The PCS waiver approval authority will determine restrictions for leave outside of the local area in conjunction with PCS (in excess of authorized travel days). Leave in conjunction with PCS will not be authorized when a Soldier is traveling outside of the United States and its Territories regardless of ROM requirement. Soldiers may take leave prior to departure from losing duty station but must return to current duty location prior to start of ROM (if required) and COVID test.

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b. Travel to and from an aerial point of debarkation/embarkation (APOD/APOE) following a negative COVID-19 test result (or medical clearance) will be conducted in a manner that minimizes the risk of personnel being exposed to or contracting the virus that causes COVID-19 during travel. Commanders may authorize necessary leave/travel days for the most direct means of travel. Any personal leave beyond what is needed for direct travel must be taken before administering the COVID-19 test.


6. COMMANDER/SUPERVISOR/SERVICE MEMBER RESPONSIBILITIES.

a. Regardless of a service member's vaccination status, Commanders and supervisors receiving county travel exemption and leave/pass requests will conduct a risk assessment of the health status and travel itinerary/justification for all service members submitting such requests. Service members should not travel if they display a fever or other symptoms consistent with COVID-19, or if they have had close contact with someone who has tested positive for COVID-19 within the past 14 days. Service members will comply with any DoD, Federal, State, and local COVID-19 restrictions at all times.

b. Per mission requirements, unit commanders may be more restrictive than this General Order to implement COVID-19 mitigation measures as necessary to ensure continuity of operations and to maintain a disciplined, ready force using the following variables: mission requirements; testing and treatment capabilities; respect of civic governance; and environmental conditions.

7. INDIVIDUAL DUTY. Persons subject to this General Order have the individual duty to know and understand the prohibitions contained herein. This General Order is punitive for all individuals subject to the Uniform Code of Military Justice (UCMJ). Any violation of this General Order may result in prosecution under Article 92 of the UCMJ or adverse administrative action. Violations of this policy by individuals not subject to the UCMJ may result in other administrative actions, including a bar from the installation in accordance with 18 USC 1382.

8. EFFECTIVE DATE. This General Order is effective immediately. It will remain in effect until rescinded by competent authority.



ROBERT P. WHITE  
Lieutenant General, USA  
Commanding

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