

# SD 1542-21-01 Security Measures – Mask Requirements

## General Information

On January 21, 2021 the President issued an Executive Order requiring masks to be worn in airports, on commercial aircraft, and in various modes of surface transportation.

On January 31, 2021 DHS TSA issued SECURITY DIRECTIVE 1542-21-01 (Security Measures – Face Mask Requirements) to implement the Executive Order by promoting measures to prevent the spread of COVID-19.

It is our collective responsibility to follow the security directive and ensure our passengers and employees are in compliance as ordered.

On April 30, 2021, the TSA announced an extension of the face mask requirement. The extension was issued through SECURITY DIRECTIVE 1542-21-01A (Security Measures – Mask Requirements), which went into effect on May 12, 2021. The extension is through September 13, 2021.

# Impact of Vaccinations

At the time of issue for SECURITY DIRECTIVE 1542-21-01A, a person's vaccination status did not change the applicability of the requirement to wear a face covering in and on the airport, on commercial aircraft, etc.

According to Version 8 of the FAQ for Post Security Directive (SD)/Emergency Amendment (EA) Mask Implementation, dated 6/11/2021, masks must continue to be worn inside regardless of vaccination status unless the individual is the only person in an enclosed private office.

*On August 22, 2021, the TSA announced an extension of the face mask requirement. The extension was issued through SECURITY DIRECTIVE 1542-21-01B (Security Measures – Mask Requirements), which goes into effect on September 14, 2021. The extension is through January 18, 2022.*

# Acceptable Masks

**The following are attributes of masks needed to fulfill the requirements of the Order. CDC will update this guidance as needed.**

- A properly worn mask completely covers the nose and mouth.
- Cloth masks should be made with two or more layers of a breathable fabric that is tightly woven (i.e., fabrics that do not let light pass through when held up to a light source).
- Mask should be secured to the head with ties, ear loops, or elastic bands that go behind the head. If gaiters are worn, they should have two layers of fabric or be folded to make two layers.
- Mask should fit snugly but comfortably against the side of the face.
- Mask should be a solid piece of material without slits, exhalation valves, or punctures.

**The following attributes are additionally acceptable as long as masks meet the requirements above.**

- Masks can be either manufactured or homemade.
- Masks can be reusable or disposable.
- Masks can have inner filter pockets.
- Clear masks or cloth masks with a clear plastic panel may be used to facilitate communication with people who are hearing impaired or others who need to see a speaker's mouth to understand speech.
- Medical masks and N-95 respirators fulfill the requirements of the Order.

# Prohibited Face Coverings

The following **DO NOT** fulfill the requirements of the Order.

- Masks worn in a way that does not cover both the mouth and nose.
- Face shields or goggles (face shields or goggles may be worn to supplement a mask that meets above required attributes).
- Scarves, ski masks, balaclavas, or bandannas.
- Shirt or sweater collars (e.g., turtleneck collars) pulled up over the mouth and nose.
- Masks made from loosely woven fabric or that are knitted, i.e., fabrics that let light pass through.
- Masks made from materials that are hard to breathe through (such as vinyl, plastic or leather).
- Masks containing slits, exhalation valves, or punctures.
- Masks that do not fit properly (large gaps, too loose or too tight).