



PERSONNEL AND
READINESS

UNDER SECRETARY OF DEFENSE
4000 DEFENSE PENTAGON
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20301-4000

MAR 24 2023

**MEMORANDUM FOR SENIOR PENTAGON LEADERSHIP
COMMANDERS OF THE COMBATANT COMMANDS
DEFENSE AGENCY AND DOD FIELD ACTIVITY DIRECTORS**

**SUBJECT: Consolidated Department of Defense Coronavirus Disease 2019 Force Health
Protection Guidance – Revision 5**

Effective immediately, sections 5.4 and 5.7 of the “Consolidated Department of Defense – Coronavirus Disease 2019 Force Health Protection Guidance” (January 30, 2023 version), are amended as attached. The complete document with amendments is also available at <https://www.defense.gov/Spotlights/Coronavirus-DOD-Response/Latest-DOD-Guidance/>.

These changes end the general post-exposure testing requirement for Service members in the workplace and modify guidance for issuing medical personal protective equipment.

Please direct any questions or comments to the following email address:
dha.ncr.ha-support.list.policy-hrpo-kmc-owners@health.mil.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Gilbert R. Cisneros, Jr.", written in a cursive style.

Gilbert R. Cisneros, Jr.

Attachment:
As stated

Attachment

1. Section 5.4 is amended as follows:

* * *

Management of Close Contacts of a Case:²⁰

- Close contacts identified through contact tracing or through exposure must wear a mask around others indoors for 10 days, even if mask wearing is not otherwise required by DoD guidance. ~~Service members in the workplace must test at least once after 5 full days following exposure. If symptoms develop, then the individual must get tested and isolate until test results are complete.~~

* * *

Footnotes:

²⁰ For more information on contact tracing with respect to Service members, see: <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/php/contact-tracing/contact-tracing-plan/contact-tracing.html>.

2. Section 5.7 is amended as follows:

~~Medical personal protective equipment (PPE) items, such as N95 respirators, are reserved for use in high-risk procedures and for use by those at increased risk of severe disease, and should not be issued outside of these circumstances unless local commanders or supervisors determine they are necessary to respect HN or local jurisdiction guidelines. In those instances, commanders or supervisors, in consultation with public health specialists and legal counsel, and with consideration of national or local jurisdictional agreements, such as Status of Forces Agreements, will determine if medical PPE items will be issued to non-medical personnel to respect such guidelines. The PPE supply must be optimized and the below guidelines should be followed, in addition to consulting CDC-published strategies found at: <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/hcp/ppe-strategy/index.html>.~~

~~Although it is likely that expired respirators will be scarce 2 years into the pandemic,~~ Stockpiles of new respirators may eventually pass their expiration date. N95 respirators in the pandemic stockpiles that have exceeded their manufacturer's recommended shelf-life and expiration date should not be discarded. Current CDC guidance addresses this issue describing strategies for optimizing the supply of N95 respirators in health care settings where there is a limited supply.²³ Use of expired respirators may be prioritized for situations where personnel are not exposed to the virus that causes COVID-19, such as for training and fit testing. The manufacturer should be contacted for additional guidance on the use of expired respirators for any other reasons. Those responsible for ordering respirators should not do so with the idea that expired devices can be readily re-used; rather, expired devices should be discarded as per National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health pre-pandemic policy.

Footnotes:

²³ <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/hcp/respirators-strategy/index.html>.