



**Transportation  
Security  
Administration**

MEMORANDUM

To: Covered Owners/Operators

Date: January 31, 2021

Subject: Security Directive 1582/84-21-01

Attached to this memorandum is Security Directive (SD) 1582/84-21-01: Security Measures – Face Mask Requirements. This SD is issued to implement the January 21, 2021, Executive Order on promoting measures to prevent the spread of coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19) by travelers within the United States and those who enter the country from abroad. This SD also supports enforcement of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) Order mandating masks issued on January 29, 2021.

This SD applies to the passenger railroads, intercity bus services, and public transportation. Please refer to the SD for the specific applicability.

All queries concerning the attached SD should be submitted to TSA via email at [TSA-Surface@tsa.dhs.gov](mailto:TSA-Surface@tsa.dhs.gov)

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Darby LaJoye".

Darby LaJoye  
Senior Official Performing the Duties of the TSA Administrator

Attachment:  
Security Directive 1582/84-21-01



---

## SECURITY DIRECTIVE

<u>NUMBER</u>	SD 1582/84-21-01
<u>SUBJECT</u>	Security Measures – Mask Requirements
<u>EFFECTIVE DATE</u>	11:59 pm EST on February 1, 2021
<u>EXPIRATION DATE</u>	May 11, 2021
<u>CANCELS AND SUPERSEDES</u>	Not Applicable
<u>APPLICABILITY</u>	Each owner/operator identified in 49 CFR 1582.1(a); each owner/operator identified in 49 CFR 1584.1 that provides fixed-route service as defined in 49 CFR 1500.3
<u>AUTHORITY</u>	49 U.S.C. 114
<u>LOCATION</u>	United States

### PURPOSE AND GENERAL INFORMATION

Due to the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic and to reduce the spread of the virus, the President issued an Executive Order, *Promoting COVID-19 Safety in Domestic and International Travel*, on January 21, 2021, requiring masks to be worn in airports, on commercial aircraft, and in various modes of surface transportation. On January 27, 2021, the Acting Secretary of Homeland Security determined a national emergency existed requiring the Transportation Security Administration (TSA) to issue this Security Directive (SD) to implement the Executive Order and enforce the related Order<sup>1</sup> issued by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), pursuant to the authority of 49 U.S.C. section 114. Consistent with these mandates and TSA's authority, TSA is issuing this SD requiring masks to be worn to mitigate the spread of COVID-19. The requirements in this SD must be applied to all persons in or on one of the conveyances or a transportation facility used by one of the modes identified above. TSA developed these requirements in consultation with the Department of Transportation (including the Federal Railroad Administration, the Federal Transit Administration, and the Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration) and the CDC.

---

<sup>1</sup> See Order Under Section 361 of the Public Health Service Act (42 U.S.C. § 264) and 42 Code of Federal Regulations §§ 70.2, 71.31(B), 71.32(B); Requirement for Persons to Wear Masks While on Conveyances and at Transportation Hubs (January 29, 2021).

---

## DEFINITIONS

For the purpose of this SD, the following definitions apply:

*Conveyance* has the same definition as under 42 CFR 70.1, meaning “an aircraft, train, road vehicle, vessel...or other means of transport, including military.”

*Mask* means a material covering the nose and mouth of the wearer, excluding face shields.<sup>2</sup>

*Transportation hub/facility* means any airport, bus terminal, marina, seaport or other port, subway stations, terminal (including any fixed facility at which passengers are picked-up or discharged), train station, U.S. port of entry, or any other location that provides transportation subject to the jurisdiction of the United States.

## ACTIONS REQUIRED

- A. Owner/Operators must notify passengers with prominent and adequate notice of the mask requirements to facilitate awareness and compliance.<sup>3</sup> At a minimum, this notice must inform passengers, at the time tickets are purchased or when otherwise booking transportation *and* at the time the conveyance departs its location after boarding passengers, of the following:
1. Federal law requires wearing a mask while on the conveyance and failure to comply may result in denial of boarding or removal.
  2. Refusing to wear a mask is a violation of federal law; passengers may be subject to penalties under federal law.
- B. Owner/Operators must require that individuals wear a mask, except as described in Sections D., E., or F., as follows:
1. Any persons in a public transportation, passenger railroad, or bus conveyance covered by this SD.
  2. Any person in public areas of transportation hubs/facilities controlled by the owner/operator (such as for purposes of purchasing tickets, waiting areas, and platforms for boarding and disembarking) for the duration of travel, boarding, and disembarking.

---

<sup>2</sup> A properly worn mask completely covers the nose and mouth of the wearer. A mask should be secured to the head, including with ties or ear loops. A mask should fit snugly but comfortably against the side of the face. Masks do not include face shields. Masks can be either manufactured or homemade and should be a solid piece of material without slits, exhalation valves, or punctures. Medical masks and N-95 respirators fulfill the requirements of this SD. CDC guidance for attributes of acceptable masks in the context of this SD is available at <https://www.cdc.gov/quarantine/masks/mask-travel-guidance.html>.

<sup>3</sup> Notice may include, if feasible, advance notifications on digital platforms, such as on apps, websites, or email; posted signage in multiple languages with illustrations; printing the requirement on tickets; or other methods as appropriate.

- 
- C. Owner/Operators must ensure that direct employees and contractor employees wear a mask at all times when in conveyances or in or around transportation facilities under their control, except as described in Sections D., E., or F.
- D. The requirement to wear a mask does not apply under the following circumstances:
1. When necessary to temporarily remove the mask for identity verification purposes.
  2. While eating, drinking, or taking oral medications for brief periods<sup>4</sup>. Prolonged periods of mask removal are not permitted for eating or drinking; the mask must be worn between bites and sips.
  3. While communicating with a person who is deaf or hard of hearing, when the ability to see the mouth is essential for communication.
  4. If unconscious (for reasons other than sleeping), incapacitated, unable to be awakened, or otherwise unable to remove the mask without assistance.<sup>5</sup>
- E. The following conveyances are exempted from wearing masks:
1. Persons in private conveyances operated solely for personal, non-commercial use.
  2. A driver, when operating a commercial motor vehicle as this term is defined in 49 CFR 390.5, if the driver is the sole occupant of the vehicle.
- F. This SD exempts the following categories of persons from wearing masks:<sup>6</sup>
1. Children under the age of 2.

---

<sup>4</sup> The CDC has stated that brief periods of close contact without a mask should not exceed 15 minutes. *See* <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/php/public-health-recommendations.html>

<sup>5</sup> Persons who are experiencing difficulty breathing or shortness of breath or are feeling winded may remove the mask temporarily until able to resume normal breathing with the mask. Persons who are vomiting should remove the mask until vomiting ceases. Persons with acute illness may remove the mask if it interferes with necessary medical care such as supplemental oxygen administered via an oxygen mask.

<sup>6</sup> Owner/Operators may impose requirements, or conditions of carriage, on persons requesting an exemption from the requirement to wear a mask, including medical consultation by a third party, medical documentation by a licensed medical provider, and/or other information as determined by the owner/operator, as well as require evidence that the person does not have COVID-19 such as a negative result from a SAR-CoV-2 viral test or documentation of recovery from COVID-19. CDC definitions for SAR-CoV-2 viral test and documentation of recovery are available in Frequently Asked Questions at: <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/travelers/testing-international-air-travelers.html>. Owners/Operators may also impose additional protective measures that improve the ability of a person eligible for exemption to maintain social distance (separation from others by 6 feet), such as scheduling travel at less crowded times or on less crowded conveyances, or seating or otherwise situating the individual in a less crowded section of the conveyance or transportation hub/facility. Owners/Operators may further require that persons seeking exemption from the requirement to wear a mask request an accommodation in advance.

- 
2. People with disabilities who cannot wear a mask, or cannot safely wear a mask, because of the disability as defined by the Americans with Disabilities Act (42 U.S.C. 12101 et seq.).<sup>7</sup>
  3. People for whom wearing a mask would create a risk to workplace health, safety, or job duty as determined by the relevant workplace safety guidelines or federal regulations.
- G. Owner/Operators must establish procedures to manage situations with persons who refuse to comply with the requirement to wear a mask. At a minimum, these procedures must ensure that if an individual refuses to comply with an instruction given by the owner/operator with respect to wearing a mask, the owner/operator must:
1. Deny boarding;
  2. Make best efforts to disembark the individual as soon as practicable; or
  3. Make best efforts to remove the individual from the transportation hub/facility.
- H. If an individual's refusal to comply with the mask requirement constitutes a significant security concern, the owner/operator must report the incident to the Transportation Security Operations Center (TSOC) at 1-866-615-5150 or 1-703-563-3240 in accordance with 49 CFR 1570.203.

#### PREEMPTION

The requirements in this SD do not preempt any State, local, Tribal, or territorial rule, regulation, order, or standard necessary to eliminate or reduce a local safety hazard, which includes public health measures that are the same or more protective of public health than those required in this SD, if that provision is not incompatible with this SD.

#### PROCEDURES FOR SECURITY DIRECTIVES

- A. The owner/operator must immediately provide written confirmation of receipt of this SD via email to TSA at [TSA-Surface@tsa.dhs.gov](mailto:TSA-Surface@tsa.dhs.gov).
- B. The owner/operator must immediately disseminate the information and measures in this SD to corporate senior management, security management representatives, and any personnel having responsibilities in implementing the provisions in this directive. The owner/operator may widely share this SD with anyone subject to the provisions of this directive to include,

---

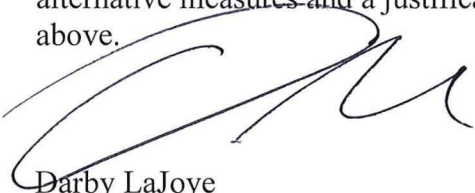
<sup>7</sup> This is a narrow exception that includes a person with a disability who cannot wear a mask for reasons related to the disability; who, e.g., do not understand how to remove their mask due to cognitive impairment, cannot remove a mask on their own due to dexterity/mobility impairments, or cannot communicate promptly to ask someone else to remove their mask due to speech impairments or language disorders, or cannot wear a mask because doing so would impede the function of assistive devices/technology. It is not meant to cover persons for whom mask-wearing may only be difficult. CDC intends to issue further guidance regarding this exception.

but not limited to, federal, state, and local government personnel; direct owner/operator employees; tenants; contractors; transport personnel; taxi drivers; law enforcement; *etc.*

- C. All individuals responsible for implementing this SD must be briefed by the owner/operator. If the owner/operator is unable to implement the measures in this SD, the owner/operator must submit proposed alternative measures and the basis for submitting the alternative measures to TSA for approval.
- D. The owner/operator may comment on this SD by submitting data, views, or arguments in writing to TSA via email at [TSA-Surface@tsa.dhs.gov](mailto:TSA-Surface@tsa.dhs.gov) . TSA may amend the SD based on comments received. Submission of a comment does not delay the effective date of the SD.

#### APPROVAL OF ALTERNATIVE MEASURES

The owner/operator must immediately notify TSA via email at [TSA-Surface@tsa.dhs.gov](mailto:TSA-Surface@tsa.dhs.gov) if unable to implement any of the measures in this SD. The owner/operator may submit proposed alternative measures and a justification for adopting those measures to the email addresses above.



Darby LaJoye  
Senior Official Performing the Duties of the TSA Administrator