I. PURPOSE

The purpose of this executive order is to provide updated information to Metropolitan Police Department (MPD) members regarding the requirement for on-duty use of department-issued and authorized masks by sworn and civilian members pursuant to City Administrator’s Order No. 2021-4 (Resumption of Requirement for All Persons to Wear a Mask Inside District Government Buildings and While on Duty as a District Government Employee or Contractor), effective July 31, 2021 at 0500 hours. To the extent that provisions in this executive order conflict with existing directives, the provisions set forth in this executive order shall prevail.

II. PROCEDURES

A. On-duty members shall carry a department-issued or authorized mask at all times.

B. All members, regardless of whether they have been fully vaccinated against COVID-19, shall wear masks while they are on duty, if they are:

1. Inside a District government building;
2. Inside any other building;
3. Answering calls for service; or
4. Outside, if they are likely to be within six feet of another person for more than 15 minutes.

C. The requirements imposed by this order to wear a mask inside a District government building or while on duty shall not apply to:

1. A member who is unable to wear a mask due to a medical condition or disability, or who is physically unable to remove a mask;
2. A member who is alone in a vehicle or an enclosed office;
3. A member while working remotely from his or her private residence;

4. A member who is actually eating or drinking;

5. A member giving a speech for broadcast or to an audience; provided, that at least six feet is maintained between the speaker and other persons;

6. A speaker whose lips are being read by a person who is deaf or hard of hearing; or

7. A member actively working in a job where the equipment required for the job precludes the wearing of a mask and the member is wearing that equipment, or when wearing a mask would endanger public safety.

D. Watch commanders shall ensure that a sufficient supply of replacement masks is available for each shift. In the event that a member’s mask becomes damaged or soiled, he or she shall contact their official who shall ensure that the member is provided with a replacement as soon as possible.

E. Personal Masks

1. In addition to department-issued masks, on-duty members may wear personal masks purchased at their own expense.

2. Personal masks must be made from one solid color fabric in white, navy blue, grey, or black. Personal masks may have “MPD,” “MPDC,” or a replica of the standard MPD police patch visible, but must have no other text, patterns, designs, or logos visible to the public. Personal masks must fit the member's face securely and must only cover the member's mouth, nose and chin. Bandanas are not authorized.

F. Members are reminded that department-issued and authorized masks are not intended for use in place of N95 masks/respirators.

1. Members shall maintain personal protective equipment (PPE) on their person for all investigate the trouble, man/woman down, and medical-related calls for service or self-initiated police actions.

2. When necessary (e.g., administering CPR), members shall don their gloves and N-95 mask/respirator at a minimum. Full PPE is not required unless the subject is exhibiting signs or symptoms of COVID-19.

Robert J. Contee III
Chief of Police

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