




South Carolina Department of Public Safety

MEMORANDUM

To: SCDPS Employees

From: Director Robert G. Woods, IV 

Date: April 30, 2021

Subject: Donning Protective Masks While Performing Duties

As the COVID-19 vaccine becomes more widely available, the number of positive cases and hospitalizations have decreased and data suggests these numbers will continue to trend downward. Effective immediately, the previously-issued June 30, 2020, directive titled "Update on COVID-19: Use of Face Masks" has hereby been rescinded and the following guidelines shall apply to all South Carolina Department of Public Safety (SCDPS) employees:

In settings where employees are working alone in segregated spaces (i.e., cubicle with walls, private offices, etc.) or where appropriate social distancing can be maintained, employees are not required to wear face masks. However, employees shall wear face masks from the time they enter an SCDPS facility until the time they arrive at their cubicles/work stations and at any time they are leaving their work stations and moving around common areas (e.g., hallways, restrooms, stairwells, break rooms).

Nothing in these rules shall require the use of a face mask or cloth face covering by anyone for whom doing so would be contrary to his/her health or safety because of a medical condition. SCDPS employees should continue using sanitizer, as necessary, and social distancing when possible.

The following provisions apply only to SCDPS troopers/officers while conducting enforcement duties:

In addition to the requirements outlined above, SCDPS troopers/officers are required to wear department-issued or neutral colored protective masks in these situations:

1. Their interactions with citizens/violators will exceed fifteen (15) minutes and/or in a confined area. (e.g., arrest situations),
2. The local ordinance in which they are located requires them to wear a facial covering, and
3. If at any time a violator/citizen requests the trooper/officer to wear a protective mask, he/she shall do so.

Please direct all questions to your supervisors or chains of command.

Thank you for your attention to this matter.