



DEPARTMENT OF THE AIR FORCE
501ST COMBAT SUPPORT WING (USAF)



APR 07 2020

MEMORANDUM FOR 501 CSW ALL PERSONNEL

FROM: 501 CSW/CC

SUBJECT: COVID-19 Message to Airmen – Update 2

Over the past few weeks, we have been working together to fight COVID-19 across the wing. I'm coming to you today to once again ask for your help as we employ new measures across all of our 501st Combat Support Wing bases.

First, the Secretary of Defense has directed the use of face masks at all DoD installations, world-wide, in places where you are likely to come within six feet of one another. Think the commissary, BX, post office, and even the counter at the gas station, or lodging front desk—places where no matter how hard you try, it's difficult to maintain the social distancing we've talked about.

I've already seen some great examples online of our talented community members stitching together homemade masks. For those of us without sewing skills, don't worry, we've posted some video guidance on how to make your own corona virus mask with things you probably have at home. I made this one at home yesterday, and if you happen to see me running essential errands around the base, I'll be wearing it. I need each and every one of you to do the same.

It's important to note, these masks are in no way a substitute for the social distancing we continue to practice. Although the Center for Disease Control does not guarantee that masks will protect us from getting the virus, they are an important step in helping to decrease the spread of the virus from one person to another. We are implementing this as an additional measure to keep our community safe and healthy, and I need your support.

Second, you may start to hear the term "physical distancing" instead of social distancing, especially in some of our military messages from our higher headquarters. This is not a new concept, or process, just another way of saying, stay at least 6 feet away from others, and avoid close conversations. The idea is that while we are physically spacing ourselves out, we can still remain socially connected. Here in the 501st, you are likely to hear about social distancing from our host nations, while at the same time getting a message of physical distancing from the US military. Either way, just keep yourself at a safe physical distance from others while remaining socially connected to your community through virtual means.

Finally, I need you to continue to stay home—in your home. Unless your unit has deemed you mission essential, I need you all to stay home. The vast majority of you have been adhering to these measures, and I thank you for your support. For the few who have not, I need you to get on board with how we do business, immediately. Unless you are a single parent, the spouse of a deployed member, or have some other exceptional circumstance, only one adult should be out, and only for essential tasks. Only one adult from your household should be at the commissary, BX, or food services. If you are getting together with your friends and neighbors, or letting your kids play with their friends, I need you to stop—right now. We need 100% compliance with all our COVID-19 measures to keep our community safe and healthy, and that starts with each and every one of you.

PATHFINDERS ~ LIGHT THE WAY

Complete and accurate information is a critical weapon in our fight against COVID-19. Please continue to look to our official 501st information sources, and share this message with your friends and neighbors across the wing.

Thank you once again for your continued patience, understanding, and commitment to our wing, and to each other. We WILL get through this together, and we will continue to LIGHT THE WAY!

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Kurt A. Wendt". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "K" and a stylized "W".

KURT A. WENDT, Colonel, USAF
Commander