

21-129

The Secretary presents his compliments to their Excellencies and Messieurs and Mesdames the Chiefs of Mission and wishes to bring to their attention information regarding efforts to reduce the spread of coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19), mask usage on federal property and public transport, and a request to participate in President Biden's "100 Day Masking Challenge."

To protect the federal workforce and individuals interacting with the federal workforce from the spread of COVID-19, the President of the United States, Joseph R. Biden Jr., issued an executive order regarding compliance with CDC guidelines with respect to wearing masks, maintaining physical distance, and other public health measures while in federal buildings or on federal lands. This executive order can be found at: <https://www.whitehouse.gov/briefing-room/presidential-actions/2021/01/20/executive-order-protecting-the-federal-workforce-and-requiring-mask-wearing/>.

Further, to protect those who are traveling and those working in the transportation industry, President Biden issued an executive order regarding the use of masks in or on airports; commercial aircraft; trains; public maritime vessels,

including ferries; intercity bus services; and all forms of public transportation.

This executive order can be found at: <https://www.whitehouse.gov/briefing-room/presidential-actions/2021/01/21/executive-order-promoting-covid-19-safety-in-domestic-and-international-travel/>.

Members of your missions should comply with the aforementioned masking guidelines when traveling or visiting federal buildings or federal lands in their official or personal capacity, with the exception of specified ceremonial events.

In furtherance of our common pursuit of COVID-19's eradication, the Department seeks your voluntary commitment to require compliance with all CDC guidelines within your missions and invites your active participation in President Biden's "100 Day Masking Challenge," an initiative he launched just prior to taking office. The "100 Day Masking Challenge" asks people in the United States to do their part and wear masks for at least the next 100 days to slow the spread of COVID-19.

The Department's Office of Foreign Missions (OFM) has developed the following framework through which to establish and promote the commitments of participating foreign missions with the "100 Day Masking Challenge."

- Chiefs of Mission who wish to be included in the Department's reporting as participating in the "100 Day Masking Challenge" are asked to formally communicate their commitment via submission of a diplomatic note. Such

notes shall be transmitted electronically to OFM-EmergencyMgt@state.gov.

Although not required, missions may utilize the language provided in the enclosed sample diplomatic note for this purpose.

- OFM will work to public promote and showcase such commitments via social media and other means if it is of interest to your mission.

Participating missions are encouraged to provide OFM with photos, videos, and other messaging illustrating their commitment to this import initiative.

Such documents should also be sent to OFM-EmergencyMgt@state.gov.

- OFM will ensure the Secretary and the White House are apprised of each mission's commitment and contributions in this regard.

Inquiries concerning this and other matters related to COVID-19 may continue to be transmitted by electronic mail to OFM-EmergencyMGT@state.gov.

Past circular diplomatic notes and notices released by the Office of Foreign

Missions related to COVID-19 may be found at <https://www.state.gov/office-of-foreign-missions-coronavirus-disease-2019-covid-19-information-and-resources/>.

Department of State,

Washington, January 27, 2021.



**Sample Diplomatic Note Confirming A Foreign Missions Commitment to the
“100 Day Masking Challenge”**

The Embassy of _____ presents its compliments to the Department of State and refers to its circular diplomatic note No. 21-129, dated January 27, 2021, concerning the Administration’s “100 Day Masking Challenge.”

For at least the next 100 days, employees of the Embassy of _____ and its consular posts, as well as any visitors, are required to wear masks, maintain physical distance, and adhere to other public measures as provided by CDC guidelines, when present in our properties authorized by the Department of State for diplomatic or consular uses in the United States.

The Embassy of _____ has no objection to the Department of State publicly confirming and promoting our commitment to the “100 Day Masking Challenge.”

- *Please note that missions are also welcome to participate in this initiative, without providing consent to the Department for public acknowledgement.*