

## **Flagstaff Area National Monuments Determination of Public Access, Restriction, or Condition**

**Affected Area/Topic Common Name:** Public health and safety - Wearing of masks or facial covering.

**Location of Affected Area:** Walnut Canyon National Monument, Sunset Crater Volcano National Monument, Wupatki National Monument and associated administrative buildings and work areas.

### **Nature of Action/Restriction**

Individuals over the age of two years must wear masks, except when actively eating or drinking, in the following locations:

1. All common areas and shared workspaces in buildings owned, rented or leased by the National Park Service, including, but not limited to, visitor centers and administrative offices.
2. The following outdoor areas, when others are present, where the superintendent has determined that physical distancing (staying at least six feet apart) cannot reasonably be maintained: All Monument trails, trailheads, sidewalks, parking lots, overlooks, visitor center patios, picnic areas and publicly accessible archeological sites (e.g. pueblos or cliff dwellings) when others are present and physical distancing cannot be maintained.

**Level of Scope of Closure/Restriction:** Restriction applies to the general public, National Park Service (NPS) employees, volunteers, residents, researchers and contractors.

**Proposed Regulatory Language (36 CFR section/wording):** Restriction regulations are enacted pursuant to 36 CFR 1.5(a)(2) and enforced pursuant to 36 CFR 1.5(f).

**Justifications:** On January 20, 2021, the President signed Executive Order 13991, Protecting the Federal Workforce and Requiring Mask-Wearing (E.O. 13991). E.O. 13991 directs federal agencies to: ... *immediately take action, as appropriate and consistent with applicable law, to require compliance with [Centers for Disease Control and Prevention] guidelines with respect to wearing masks, maintaining physical distance, and other public health measures by: on-duty or on-site Federal employees; on-site Federal contractors; and all persons in Federal buildings or on Federal lands.*

As stated in E.O. 13991, it is the policy of the Administration to halt the spread of coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19) by relying on the best available data and science-based public health measures. Such measures include wearing masks when around others, physical distancing, and other related precautions recommended by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC).

On January 24, 2021, the Office of Management and Budget issued [M-21-15, COVID-19 Safe Federal Workplace: Agency Model Safety Principles](#) to provide guidance to federal agencies on implementing E.O. 13991. M-21-15 contains model safety principles that apply CDC guidelines related to mask-wearing and physical distancing to the federal workplace and are designed to be used by federal agencies as a starting point for updating their COVID-19 workplace safety plans. The guidance draws upon these

principles to help ensure that visitors to the National Park System do not threaten the health and safety of NPS employees, volunteers, partners and contractors, or other park visitors.

On January 29, 2021, the Acting Secretary of the Interior issued a memorandum entitled [Protecting Our Workforce by Requiring Mask-Wearing](#). This memorandum reaffirmed the Administration's commitment to an urgent, robust, and professional response to the COVID-19 pandemic. The Memorandum requires all onsite employees, contractors, and volunteers to wear a mask or face covering at all times while in Department buildings or on federal public lands when physical distancing of 6 feet or more is not possible.

At Walnut Canyon, Sunset Crater Volcano and Wupatki National Monuments, mask-wearing requirements for specified outdoor settings and conditions recognize locations where physical distancing may be difficult or impossible to maintain. These include patio areas adjacent to each monument's visitor center, paved and unpaved trails and sidewalks, overlooks, parking areas, and publicly accessible archeological sites, where crowding and two-way pedestrian traffic make physical distancing difficult or impossible.

#### **CDC Guidance on Mask-Wearing.**

The CDC has issued [detailed considerations for wearing masks](#). Superintendents are encouraged to share this guidance with staff and visitors and use it in support of compendium actions taken to implement and enforce mask-wearing requirements for park visitors. Some of these considerations are summarized below.

- In addition to physical distancing and hand washing, masks are a critical step to help prevent people from getting and spreading COVID-19. When you wear a mask, you protect others as well as yourself.
- COVID-19 spreads mainly from person to person through respiratory droplets. Masks are a simple barrier to help prevent respiratory droplets from reaching others.
- Masks can prevent the spread of the disease even when the wearer is not sick. This is because several studies have found that people with COVID-19 who never develop symptoms (asymptomatic) and those who are not yet showing symptoms (pre-symptomatic) can still spread the virus to other people.
- Masks may not be necessary when you are outside by yourself away from others, or with other people who live in your household.
- It is especially important to wear a mask indoors with people you do not live with and when you are unable to stay at least 6 feet apart because COVID-19 spreads mainly among people who are in close contact with one another.
- Recommended masks include non-medical disposable masks, masks that fit properly (cover nose and mouth and fit snugly around the nose and chin with no large gaps around the sides of the face), masks made with breathable fabric (such as cotton), masks made with tightly woven fabric (i.e., fabrics that do not let light pass through when held up to a light source), masks with two or three layers, and masks with inner filter pockets. Novelty/non-protective masks, masks with ventilation valves, or face shields are not a substitute for the recommended masks.

**Proposed By:** Craig Janicki, Chief Ranger, Flagstaff Area National Monuments.

**Proposed Implementation Date:** 02/03/2021

**Method of Public Notification:** NPS.gov website updated with closure notification, Public Information Officer will issue press release to all local media, signage at all Visitor Centers and entrance points.

Reviewed By:   
Craig Janicki - Chief Ranger

Date: 02/03/2021

DETERMINATION **APPROVED** / NOT APPROVED

Superintendent:   
Kayci Cook Collins - Superintendent

Date: 02/03/2021