

I am a preventive medicine physician retired from the USAF; I was in charge of influenza and respiratory virus surveillance at the USAF School of Aerospace Medicine 2008-2013 and Deputy Director, DoD Global Emerging Infections Surveillance and Response system 2002-2008. We routinely recommended preventive measures such as non-pharmacologic interventions, vaccinations, etc. for military and related populations and worked with the CDC and Federal agencies. With COVID, I've been working with the Utah Department of Health in the COVID-19 response. This petition is from me personally and does not reflect the opinions of the state, USAF or DoD. In order to reduce COVID-19 transmission, CDC issued guidance on mask wear and social distancing. In a commercial aircraft like a 737 the Captain and First Officer can't maintain social distance so mask wear is the only protection possible. The current FAA policy allows for voluntary mask wear in the cockpit - frequently the Captain doesn't wear a mask in the cockpit and this unnecessarily endangers the First Officer and his or her family. Proper mask wear, covering the nose and mouth should be mandatory in the cockpit and violations should be reported. CDC guidelines regarding mask wear: (<https://www.cdc.gov/quarantine/masks/mask-travel-guidance.html> accessed 1/19/21) "CDC strongly recommends appropriate masks be worn by all passengers and by all personnel operating the conveyance while on public conveyances (e.g., airplanes, ships, ferries, trains, subways, buses, taxis, ride-shares) and within locations where people board such conveyances (e.g. airports, bus or ferry terminals, train stations, seaports.)"