



TSA Issues Security Directive to Enforce Federal Face Mask Requirements

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

RAPID CITY, S.D. (02/01/2021) – In response to the Executive Order, *Promoting COVID-19 Safety in Domestic and International Travel*, issued on January 21, 2021, and the related Order issued January 29, 2021, by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), the TSA has issued Security Directive (SD) 1542-21-01 to address the new Mask Requirement at airports within the United States. The SD is effective on February 1, 2021 at 9:59 pm (MT). A copy of the SD is included and may be found at: https://www.tsa.gov/sites/default/files/sd-1582_84-21-01.pdf.

“The safety of the traveling public, our employees and our tenants is of the utmost importance to us,” stated Patrick Dame, Airport Executive Director. “While the enforcement piece of this SD is the responsibility of the Airport operator, we ask for the public’s cooperation and understanding as we comply with the federal mandate.”

The wearing of masks is currently required at the Rapid City Regional Airport, however, it is now mandated by federal law. Individuals refusing to wear a mask at an airport may be subject to federal penalties. There are a few exemptions under the SD:

- Eating, drinking, or taking medications, for brief periods
- Communicating with a person who is hearing impaired
- Instances when wearing oxygen masks are needed due to loss of cabin pressure or other event affecting aircraft ventilation
- Travelers who are unconscious (for reasons other than sleeping), incapacitated, unable to be awakened, or otherwise unable to move without assistance
- Verifying a traveler's identity such as through TSA screening or by a ticket or gate agent
- Children under the age of 2 years
- A person with a disability who cannot safely wear a mask
- A person for whom wearing a mask would pose a risk to workplace health, safety, or job duty as determined by relevant federal regulations or workplace safety guidelines

It is the mission of Rapid City Regional Airport to provide a safe, environmentally responsible and fiscally self-sustainable operation ensuring high quality services and facilities. Our vision is to provide world class transportation service enhancing economic growth.

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For more information:

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