

General Staff Update

1. The COVID-19 JOPG have continued to review and assess current COVID-19 procedures and protocols, the most recent COVID-19 JOPG was held on the 09 JUN '22. The General Staff reviewed the issues raised and provided the necessary Decisions and Guidance.
2. The following **Updates and Guidance** were provided by the General Staff:
 - a. Given the historic nature of the COVID-19 virus and the reoccurring pattern of a decrease in positive cases during the summer months, the **General Staff advise that guidance relating to the mandatory wearing of barrier facemasks is removed**. A close monitoring of the impact of the virus on a nation level will be maintained.
 - b. **OPERATION FORTITUDE** continues with 123,121 personnel deployed on operations to date.
 - c. As of 08 JUN '22 there were zero (0) **positive cases of COVID-19 within DF PSO Contingents**. All PSO framework operations are continuing, despite the presence of the virus.
 - d. Formations are reminded of the necessity to ensure that all their personnel receive the Defence Forces **COVID-19 Risk Awareness Brief** (Version 2) in 2022 and are recorded on the TMS for same.
 - e. The **medical force protection** of all personnel remains the priority of the General Staff. We will continue to monitor any further changes in measures or restriction levels to limit the spread of COVID-19, in line with Government guidance. Where necessary, JOPG meetings will be conducted followed by General Staff Decision Briefs.