

FAQ – TRAVEL RESTRICTIONS

(As of March 13, 2020)

Q1. What is being done to ensure our service members are safe in their travels and keep them healthy?

A1. The actions outlined in Secretary Esper's memo and the Force Health Protection Supplement #4 are done to protect our personnel and their families. The department will take several measures to enhance traveler safety, such as establishing pre- and post-travel screening and reception procedures and transitioning to military and DoD contracted aircraft for from or to CDC Level 3 or Level 2 designated areas. We encourage all DoD personnel and families to visit <https://www.defense.gov/Explore/Spotlight/Coronavirus/> for tips on staying healthy.

Q2. Do the Level 3 locations include the European countries mentioned by the president?

A2. DoD follows the levels and countries designated by the CDC. As of March 11, the CDC updated the list of countries designated as Level 3. This includes the Schengen Area countries of the European Union. The complete list can be found here: www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/travelers/index.html.

Q3. Does the Force Health Protection Guidance also go into effect March 13?

A3. Yes, the policy is in effect as of March 13. We ask that all of our personnel proactively taking the actions to protect themselves and those around them by employing those protective measures including practicing good hand washing, social distancing, and taking appropriate actions if feeling sick now. These measures can dramatically decrease the risk of infection and slow the spread of COVID-19.

Q4. What will screening measures (as mentioned in the Force Health Protection Supplement #4) entail?

A4. We are instituting risk assessments and if necessary, medical evaluations, for all personnel prior to departure on any military aircraft. Additionally, we are putting preventive monitoring measures in place for those who have recently traveled. Specifically, for those who recently traveled to, though, or from a CDC Travel Health Advisory Level 2 or Level 3 country, we are directing that they stay at home at 14 days, practice social distancing, and self-monitor for potential symptoms of COVID-19 including taking their temperature twice a day. For all other returning travelers, including those traveling within the United States, we are telling them to practice social distancing and be mindful in their daily self-observation for any signs or symptoms of COVID-19. For all, we are telling them that if they feel sick, they should immediately self-isolate, notify their leadership, and call the appropriate medical authorities for assistance.

Q5. Will DoD designate specific locations that service members returning CONUS must travel to in order to be placed under the 14-day restriction of movement?

A5. There is no designated quarantine location for returning personnel. Each service member will stay at home or other appropriate domicile coordinated with the parent command for 14 days, practice social distancing and conduct self-monitoring. All required pre-travel screening will be adhered to in accordance with the Force Health Protection guidance supplement #4: <https://media.defense.gov/2020/Mar/11/2002263241/-1/-1/1/FORCE-HEALTH-PROTECTION-GUIDANCE-SUPPLEMENT-4.PDF>

Q6. What about individuals who have had their household goods picked up but haven't departed their location?

A6. Each situation is different. Contact your shipping office to determine your shipment is still in the local area and whether or not you may have access to it.

Q7. What about my POV? I have an upcoming appointment to drop my car off at the Vehicle Processing Center (VPC). What should I do?

A7: If you are unsure if the stop movement order applies to you, contact your chain of command. If the stop movement order does not apply to your PCS—or your chain of command has approved an exception to the order—proceed to the VPC as planned.

Q8: I've already dropped my POV off, but my PCS has been delayed. Can I get my car back?

A8: If you're interested in retrieving your vehicle, contact the VPC immediately. VPCs are postured to assist customers with changing appointments, vehicle retrieval, and answering any other POV-related questions you have.

Q9. Now that CDC has declared a Global COVID-19 Outbreak Notice as Level 2, does that mean no families, domestically or internationally, can accompany on PCS moves?

A9. At this time, the United States is not designated as level 2. Domestic designations may change as conditions change in the coming days. All overseas locations are either Level 2 or Level 3. Yes, all family members of military and essential civilian employees will have their international travel deferred for 60 days.

Q10. With this new policy, what is the impact to those service members who have already received orders, to say, Korea or Japan? Will they be held in place?

A10. Depending on their location, effective March 13, all service members, civilians and families traveling to, from or through Level 3 locations (as designated by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention) will stop movement for the next 60 days. As stated in the travel restriction guidance, exceptions may be granted for compelling cases where the travel is: (1) determined to be mission essential; (2) necessary for humanitarian reasons; or (3) warranted due to extreme hardship.

Q11. What do you mean when you talk about "concurrent official travel" for families to Level 2 locations? Will families not be allowed to accompany?

A11. Concurrent travel refers to having family members travel with their sponsor. No, families will not be able to accompany their sponsor to overseas locations; their travel will be deferred for 60 days. As stated in the travel restriction guidance, exceptions may be granted for compelling cases where the travel is: (1) determined to be mission essential; (2) necessary for humanitarian reasons; or (3) warranted due to extreme hardship.

Q12. Will the screening measures only be for those landing in Level 2 or 3 locations?

A12. No, this policy applies to all personnel who travel or have recently traveled. However, the actions we expect our leaders and people to take are dependent upon their travel routes and locations. At this time, all countries other than the United States are either Level 2 or Level 3, which requires screening whether it was for travel to, from, or through.

Q13. Will a service member be allowed to PCS from Level 3 locations? Or will orders be cancelled?

A13. All DoD uniformed personnel, civilian personnel and family members traveling to, from or through CDC Level 3 locations will stop movement for the next 60 days. As stated in the travel restriction guidance, exceptions may be granted for compelling cases where the travel is: (1) determined to be mission essential; (2) necessary for humanitarian reasons; or (3) warranted due to extreme hardship.

Q14. Is DoD planning to assist service members who have already terminated their leases in anticipation of a move within 30 days?

A14. DoD will use all means available to assist service members who were impacted by COVID-19. Please contact your chain of command for assistance.

Q15. Will the military cover their temporary housing until they can travel? Can they put the charges on their government travel card?

A15. DoD will use all means available to assist service members who were impacted by COVID-19. Approved reimbursable travel expenses are authorized to be placed on the government travel card. Please contact your chain of command for assistance.

Q16. Is there a freeze on civilian hiring in the affected locations?

A16. Yes, there is a freeze on hiring actions that involve PCS to Level 2 and Level 3 designated locations. For Level 3 locations, all hiring actions are subject to stop movement for the next 60 days. For Level 2 locations, hiring actions for essential civilian positions that require PCS may continue as planned. DoD Components may continue local hiring. As stated in the travel restriction guidance, exceptions may be granted for compelling cases where the travel is: (1) determined to be mission essential; (2) necessary for humanitarian reasons; or (3) warranted due to extreme hardship.

Q17. Does this travel memo affect contractors traveling to and from those locations?

A17. We advise contractors to check with their companies.

Q18. What does government funded leave actually mean?

A18. Government-funded leave is leave by a military member or DoD civilian employee whose leave involves Government-funded travel. One example is renewal agreement travel by civilian employees.

Q19. Can service members currently on leave in CONUS return overseas to a CDC Level 3 or Level 2 country they are stationed in?

A19. For Level 3: no, unless granted an exception. For Level 2, yes.

Q20. Can service members ETS and retire within the directive window?

A20. Yes.

Q21. Will reserve service members who are deployed to a CDC Level 3 or Level 2 location be permitted to redeploy CONUS upon completion of orders?

A21. For Level 3: no, unless granted an exception. For Level 2, yes.

Q22. How does this apply to Level 2 areas where service members are on military leave?

A22. For those who recently traveled to, through, or from a CDC Travel Health Advisory Level 2 or Level 3 country, we are directing that they stay at home at 14 days, practice social distancing, and self-monitor for potential symptoms of COVID-19 including taking their temperature twice a day.

Q23. How does this affect your relationship with host nations?

A23. We are working with partner nations in impacted regions to ensure the health and safety of our members as operations continue.