MEMORANDUM FOR SENIOR PENTAGON LEADERSHIP
COMMANDERS OF THE COMBATANT COMMANDS
DEFENSE AGENCY AND DOD FIELD ACTIVITY DIRECTORS

SUBJECT: Force Health Protection Guidance (Supplement 20) – Department of Defense Guidance for Personnel Traveling During the Coronavirus Disease 2019 Pandemic

References: (a) Department of Defense Instruction (DoDI) 6200.03, “Public Health Emergency Management (PHEM) Within the DoD,” March 28, 2019
(c) Secretary of Defense Memorandum, “Update to Conditions-based Approach to Coronavirus Disease 2019 Personnel Movement and Travel Restrictions,” March 15, 2021
(e) Executive Order 13998, “Promoting COVID-19 Safety in Domestic and International Travel,” January 21, 2021
(f) Centers for Disease Control and Prevention Federal Register Notice, “Requirement for Negative Pre-Departure COVID-19 Test Result or Documentation of Recovery from COVID-19 for All Airline or Other Aircraft Passengers Arriving into the United States from any Foreign Country,” 86 Federal Register, 6331-6336, January 21, 2021
(g) Acting Under Secretary of Defense for Personnel and Readiness Memorandum, “Force Health Protection Guidance (Supplement 16) – Department of Defense Guidance for Deployment and Redeployment of Individuals and Units During the Coronavirus Disease 2019 Pandemic,” March 16, 2021
(i) Department of Defense Joint Travel Regulations, current edition
(m) Director, Defense Health Agency Memorandum, “Supplemental Health Care Program Blanket Waiver for Coronavirus 2019 (COVID-19) Testing for Asymptomatic Tier 1-4 Active Duty Service Members,” July 2, 2020

This memorandum supplements requirements in references (a) through (c) and rescinds and replaces reference (d). This memorandum applies to official and unofficial travel and provides updated pre- and post-travel guidance for purposes of force health protection (FHP) for Service members, DoD family members, DoD civilian employees, and DoD contractor personnel in accordance with references (e) and (f) and current Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) travel guidance, which is available at: https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/travelers/map-and-travel-notices.html. The heads of Office of the Secretary of Defense (OSD) and DoD Components will ensure that all actions comply with applicable labor obligations to the extent such obligations do not conflict with the Department’s ability to conduct operations during this emergency, consistent with the law.

FHP guidance for deployment and redeployment of forces during the coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19) pandemic is included in reference (g).

The Secretaries of the Military Departments (MILDEPs), heads of OSD Components, and Commanders of the Geographic Combatant Commands (GCCs) may implement more restrictive guidance and additional FHP measures based on mission requirements and local risk assessments, in consultation with their medical staffs and public health authorities.

The Secretaries of the MILDEPs, heads of OSD Components, Commanders of the GCCs, and the Commander, U.S. Transportation Command, may choose to exempt assigned aircrew and aircraft maintenance recovery team members on commercial, military contracted, and organic military aircraft from this guidance, to the extent permissible, consistent with applicable legal requirements. In addition, patients and their attendants in the en-route care system are exempt from restriction of movement (ROM) requirements and may be exempted from testing requirements by the Theater Validating Flight Surgeon until they arrive at their final treatment destination. Medical care will not be delayed due to ROM requirements.

The attachment provides guidance for travel within the United States and to and from foreign countries. Adherence to this guidance will protect the health of personnel and reduce the spread of COVID-19 within and outside the United States.
This memorandum and other COVID-19 guidance memoranda are centrally located at: https://www.defense.gov/Explore/Spotlight/Coronavirus/Latest-DOD-Guidance/.

My point of contact for this guidance is Mr. Steven P. Jones, who may be reached at (703) 681-7335 or steven.p.jones10.civ@mail.mil.

Virginia S. Penrod  
Acting

Attachment:  
As stated
ATTACHMENT

In addition to personal health protective measures recommended by the CDC that have been implemented throughout DoD (reference (h)), strict adherence to ROM guidelines is effective in limiting COVID-19 transmission. Travel-associated ROM requirements are specified within this attachment. All definitions for travel-related terms may be found in the DoD Joint Travel Regulations (reference (i)).

Steps To Be Taken During ROM

During any required or recommended ROM period, individuals (with the exceptions noted below) will, to the fullest extent practicable:

- Observe applicable host nation (HN) requirements in a manner consistent with existing agreements or arrangements if HN ROM requirements are more stringent.
- Restrict movement to their residence or other appropriate domicile as much as possible.
- Maintain a distance of greater than 6 feet from anyone who did not, or will not, travel with them, including family members or roommates; wear masks at all times around individuals and employ hand washing practices in accordance with CDC guidance; avoid crowds; avoid the use of public transportation; and avoid close interaction with pets or other animals. Adhere to strict FHP measures for 14 days after travel even if the ROM period is shorter than 14 days.
- Consider their ROM location as their authorized duty location.
- Self-monitor for subjective fever (that is, feeling feverish) or actual fever (≥100.4°F or ≥38°C) by taking their temperature twice a day, and self-monitor for cough, difficulty breathing, or other COVID-19 signs and symptoms as described by the CDC at: https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/symptoms-testing/symptoms.html. If signs or symptoms consistent with COVID-19 develop during the 14-day self-monitoring period, individuals will, to the fullest extent practicable, immediately self-isolate in accordance with CDC guidance, limit contact with others, seek advice by telephone or other authorized communication modalities from an appropriate healthcare provider to determine whether medical evaluation and testing for COVID-19 is needed, and return to work only when cleared by a healthcare provider to do so.
- For Service members, notify their chain of command or supervision if they or persons in their household develop signs or symptoms consistent with COVID-19. Such health information will be used only for FHP purposes and will be protected in accordance with applicable laws and policy.
- DoD civilian employees should notify supervisors if they develop or have had contact with anyone who exhibits signs or symptoms consistent with COVID-19. Such health information will be used only for FHP purposes and will be protected in accordance with applicable laws and policy.
- Telework when practicable per direction of their commander and/or supervisor.
- For personnel whose presence is required in the workplace by their supervisor, consider whether and when to return to work during the ROM period in accordance with reference (b).
Additional ROM Guidance:

- If ROM is conducted prior to travel, travel to and from an Aerial Point of Debarkation/Embarkation (APOE) following ROM completion will, to the maximum extent possible, be conducted in a manner that minimizes the risk of personnel being exposed to or contracting the virus that causes COVID-19 during travel.
- For MILDEP ships and submarines, underway time from port of embarkation/debarkation to port of debarkation/embarkation may be used to meet ROM requirements provided no cases have occurred while underway and there has been no contact with personnel from other vessels (e.g., resupply vessels) that would permit transmission.
- Exception to ROM: Unless otherwise required by a more restrictive DoD policy, pre- and post-travel ROM is not required for individuals who are 14 days post-completion of COVID-19 vaccination with a Food and Drug Administration (FDA)-authorized vaccine and meet all of the CDC criteria for the specific vaccine administered. Individuals will continue to adhere to public health measures, such as physical distancing to the greatest extent possible and mask wearing, in accordance with reference (h).

ROM after arrival at the travel destination may not be required by the destination health authority (e.g., the HN or State or local jurisdiction) if travelers have undergone COVID-19 testing prior to travel. Travelers should check with the MILDEPs, GCCs, State and local public health authorities, and military installations for current information. For DoD testing guidelines, refer to references (j), (k), (l), and (m).

Determining Whether to Travel

It is important for the appropriate commander or supervisor, assisted by medical personnel, to complete a risk assessment for each traveler before travel, as set forth below, including an assessment of the health status and itinerary. Specifically:

- For Service members, a risk assessment is required before all travel.
- For DoD family members, reimbursement for official travel may only occur after the Service member certifies, to the best of his or her knowledge, that family members have completed a risk assessment. DoD family members are strongly encouraged to complete a risk assessment before unofficial travel as well.
- For DoD civilian employees, a risk assessment is required before official travel. DoD civilian employees are strongly encouraged to complete a risk assessment before unofficial travel as well.
- For DoD contractor personnel, DoD contracting officers will ensure that all contracts that include performance requiring official travel outside the United States require DoD contractor personnel to complete a risk assessment. DoD contractor personnel are strongly encouraged to complete a risk assessment before unofficial travel as well.
The risk assessment of the health status of the traveler will include, at a minimum, determining:

- Whether the individual is familiar with how to self-monitor and what actions to take if he or she develops COVID-19 symptoms or contracts COVID-19.
- Whether the individual has exhibited any signs or symptoms of COVID-19 within the previous 14 days.
- Whether the individual has had contact with anyone having, or known to have exhibited, signs or symptoms of COVID-19, or who has tested positive for COVID-19 within the previous 14 days.
- Whether the individual has recently recovered from COVID-19 and, if so, when and if they have documentation of a positive viral test and documentation of recovery from a healthcare provider.
- Whether the individual has completed a COVID-19 immunization series and, if so, when.
- Whether the individual has traveled to a country, State, territory, county, or city with high or increasing COVID-19 transmission as defined by the CDC within the previous 14 days.
- Whether the individual is at increased risk of severe illness of COVID-19.
- The status of community spread of COVID-19 for the travel destination.

In all cases, Service members, DoD family members, DoD civilian employees, and DoD contractor personnel should not travel if they have tested positive for COVID-19 and have not yet met the criteria for discontinuing isolation, they are symptomatic, or they are pending COVID-19 test results. Travel should also be delayed if, in the past 14 days, an individual has been in close contact, as defined by the CDC, with someone who has tested positive for and/or been symptomatic of COVID-19 and requires self-quarantine, unless exempted based on prior COVID-19 infection or prior completion of COVID-19 vaccination, per reference (j). Prior to travel, all travelers should be educated on how to self-monitor and what actions to take if one develops COVID-19 signs or symptoms or contracts COVID-19.

**General Travel Guidance**

During all official travel, travelers will adhere to public health measures, such as physical distancing to the greatest extent possible and mask wearing, in accordance with reference (h). In addition to completion of required or recommended ROM, additional requirements may be necessary when traveling to or from locations outside and within the United States. Travel requirements or recommendations are listed below by travel destination (within or outside the United States), type of travel (official or unofficial), and person traveling (Service member, DoD family member, DoD civilian employee, or DoD contractor personnel). The term “United States” means the 50 States, the District of Columbia, and U.S. Territories.

For travel via military airlift (contracted or organic), APOE health screening is mandatory. Travelers who have a medical issue identified during screening, or who refuse to be tested or screened at the APOE, may be denied travel.
The waiver authority available to the Secretaries of the MILDEPs, heads of OSD Components, Chief of the National Guard Bureau, and Commanders of the GCCs for official travel is specified in the “Specific Travel Guidance by Type of Travel” section below. Travel that is limited to transit between and through foreign countries contained wholly within a single GCC area of responsibility, and between GCC areas of responsibility, is not subject to this memorandum and will be managed by each relevant GCC or GCCs as appropriate.

**Testing Guidance**

Upon signature of this memorandum, pre-travel, post-travel, and ROM-associated COVID-19 testing is authorized for official international air travel at military medical treatment facilities on a non-reimbursable basis in accordance with reference (n) for DoD civilian employees and members of the Selected Reserve (including members of the National Guard) not otherwise eligible to receive care.

Personnel (with the exceptions noted below) conducting **official international air travel**, from the United States to a foreign country or from a foreign country to the United States, will be tested with a viral test\(^1\) conducted during the 3 days prior to departure of the commercial or military airlift and maintain proof of the negative test during travel. This pre-travel testing is consistent with references (e) and (f). If the destination location requires a specific test or stricter test timing, personnel must follow the destination location requirement instead; this may include the Electronic Foreign Clearance Guide. Testing is authorized on presentation of an electronic or paper copy of orders at military medical treatment facilities in accordance with this guidance and per reference (m). Active Duty Service members are authorized to receive travel-related testing in accordance with reference (m) and applicable MILDEP guidance.

Personnel (with the exceptions noted below) conducting **unofficial international air travel** are recommended to be tested with a viral test conducted during the 3 days prior to departure of the commercial or military airlift from the United States to a foreign country and maintain proof of the negative test during travel. Personnel (with the exceptions noted below) conducting international air travel are **required** to be tested with a viral test conducted during the 3 days prior to departure of the commercial or military flight from a foreign country to the United States and 3 to 5 days after completion of travel. For military flights, personnel will follow this guidance on pre-travel testing unless operational circumstances cannot accommodate.

Active Duty Service members are authorized to receive pre-travel testing in accordance with reference (l) and applicable MILDEP guidance.

**Exceptions to Testing:** Unless otherwise required by a more restrictive DoD Policy:
- Individuals fully recovered from a laboratory-confirmed diagnosis of COVID-19 infection within the previous 90 days are not required to undergo viral testing. Individuals recovered from COVID-19 infection and desiring to travel will receive clearance from a healthcare provider or public health official and maintain a copy of the clearance letter in their possession during travel.

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\(^1\) Testing in this guidance refers to tests that utilize molecular or, in certain limited circumstances, antigen testing methods, in accordance with reference (l).
• Individuals who are 14 days post-completion of COVID-19 vaccination with a FDA-approved vaccine and meet all of the CDC criteria for the specific vaccine administered, are not required to undergo viral testing prior to travel from the United States to a foreign country.

Specific Travel Guidance by Type of Travel

1. Travel from the United States to a Foreign Country
   a) Official Travel (as set forth in reference (i))
      i) Service members
         • Will conduct a travel-associated ROM as follows unless an exception described above applies:
           o Upon arrival at the foreign country destination:
             ▪ Service members will observe applicable HN public health measures.
             ▪ ROM will be conducted as follows:
               ▶ 14 days without testing; or, after an appropriate risk assessment, the head of an OSD Component or Secretary of a MILDEP may, consistent with applicable HN public health measures, decrease to a ROM for 10 days without testing; or decrease to a ROM for 7 days with a negative viral test within 48 hours prior to the end of the 7-day ROM.
               ▶ MILDEPs maintain the authority to determine how necessary ROM and movement, including the mode of transportation to final destinations, are executed.
             ▪ For any travel-associated ROM, follow the procedures specified above in the “Steps To Be Taken during ROM” section.
               o If it is necessary to undertake a pre-arrival ROM to observe applicable HN public health measures, the Service member will follow the 14-day, 10-day, or 7-day ROM procedures described above at an appropriate domicile prior to departure and complete pre-travel testing within 1 to 3 days prior to departure.
               o Only one ROM is required, either before travel or after arrival.
               o Must follow all other requirements imposed by the GCC with responsibility over the destination geographic area, all applicable HN procedures, and all requirements of the Electronic Foreign Clearance Guide.
      ii) DoD family members
         • Service members must attest that, to the best of their knowledge, their family members have followed the same requirements as those set forth for Service members in this guidance. Failure to do so may result in delay or cancellation of previously authorized travel. This attestation requirement will be incorporated into travel orders issued to Service members.
      iii) DoD Civilian Employees
         • Will conduct a travel-associated ROM and other FHP practices as described above for Service members.
      iv) DoD Contractor Personnel
         • DoD contracting officers will ensure that all contracts that include performance outside the United States require DoD contractor personnel to comply with the
country entry requirements of the respective GCC (which may include screening, ROM, and testing), as reflected in the Electronic Foreign Clearance Guide, and all applicable HN procedures. The GCC may waive such additional requirements, consistent with existing authorities.

b) Unofficial Travel (as set forth in reference (i))
   i) Service members will comply with their respective MILDEP guidance, DoD Component-specific guidance, and/or GCC and applicable HN procedures for the areas to which, and through which, they are traveling.
   ii) DoD family members, DoD civilian employees, and DoD contractor personnel should comply with the guidance and/or applicable HN procedures for the areas to which, and through which, they are traveling, and are strongly recommended to follow the FHP guidance provided within this document and any other DoD Component-specific guidance.

2. Travel From or Through a Foreign Country to the United States.
   a) Official Travel (as set forth in reference (i))
      i) Service members
         • Will conduct pre-travel screening, and testing as outlined above, prior to departure. If COVID-19 infection is indicated by the screening or testing, delay travel and consult a healthcare provider for clearance to travel.
         • Will conduct a risk assessment as outlined in “Determining Whether to Travel” above upon arrival in the United States. Those who become ill or have had close contact with a person known to have contracted COVID-19 during travel must self-isolate (if ill) or quarantine (if exposed but not ill) and notify their chain of command or supervisor. Exception: Individuals fully recovered from a laboratory-confirmed diagnosis of COVID-19 infection within the previous 90 days, or those who are fully vaccinated (defined as: 14 days post-completion of COVID-19 vaccination with a FDA-authorized vaccine and meet all of the CDC criteria for the specific vaccine administered), are not required to quarantine as long as they remain symptom-free.
         • ROM will be conducted as follows: Unless an exception described above applies, if traveling from or having traveled through a foreign country, the Service member will, upon arrival at his or her destination domicile:
            o ROM for 14 days without testing.
               • If after an appropriate risk assessment, the head of the OSD Component or Secretary of the MILDEP concerned may decrease to a ROM for 10 days without testing; or decrease to a ROM for 7 days with a negative viral test within 48 hours prior to the end of the 7-day ROM.
               • Personnel whose presence is required in the workplace by their supervisor may return to work during the ROM period in accordance with reference (b).
            o For any travel-associated ROM, follow the procedures specified above in the “Steps to Be Taken During ROM” section. The ROM requirements may be reduced or waived by the appropriate head of an OSD Component or Secretary of a MILDEP on a case-by-case basis with appropriate risk assessment and mitigation measures.
o Be tested, between 3 and 5 days after arrival, for COVID-19 in accordance with CDC guidance.
  o Comply with all installation, CDC, State, and local government guidance.

ii) DoD family members will conduct pre-travel screening and testing as outlined above and are strongly recommended to follow the FHP guidance that is provided within this document for Service members during all travel.

iii) DoD civilian employees and DoD contractor personnel will conduct pre-travel screening as outlined above and are strongly recommended to follow the FHP guidance that is provided in this document for Service members during all travel. Any applicable requirements in reference (b) must be met prior to returning to a DoD workplace.

b) Unofficial Travel (set forth in reference (i))

i) Service members

  • If traveling from, or having travelled through a foreign country, will follow the pre-travel screening and risk assessment and ROM procedures outlined above in the Official Travel section.
  • Will comply with DoD Component-specific guidance and/or procedures of the GCC and HN applicable to the countries to which, and through which, they are traveling.
  • Who become ill must self-isolate (if COVID-19 positive and/or symptomatic) or quarantine (if a close contact but not COVID-19 positive and asymptomatic) and notify their chain of command or supervisor. In accordance with current CDC guidance, a close contact is defined as being within 6 feet of an infected person for a cumulative total of 15 minutes or more over a 24-hour period.
  • Who have had close contact with a person known to have contracted COVID-19 during travel must self-isolate (if COVID-19 positive and/or symptomatic) or quarantine (if exposed but not COVID-19 positive) as defined in reference (b) and notify their chain of command or supervisor. Exception: Individuals fully recovered from a laboratory-confirmed diagnosis of COVID-19 infection within the previous 90 days, or those who are 14 days post-completion of COVID-19 vaccination with a FDA-authorized vaccine and meet all of the CDC criteria for the specific vaccine administered, are not required to quarantine as long as they remain symptom-free.

ii) DoD family members are strongly recommended to follow the FHP guidance, including pre-travel screening and testing, provided within this document for Service members.

iii) DoD civilian employees and DoD contractor personnel are strongly recommended to follow the FHP guidance, including pre-travel screening and testing provided within this document for Service members. Any applicable requirements in reference (b) must be met prior to returning to a DoD workplace.

3. Travel Within the United States

a) Official Travel (as set forth in reference (i))

i) Service members

  • May conduct unrestricted travel between installations that meet the criteria set forth in reference (c). Prior to travel, Service members should consult the

- Will comply with military installation, State, and local government travel restrictions.
- Will comply with their DoD Component-specific guidance and/or procedures for screening, ROM, and testing, and should review and consider CDC guidance. Testing is authorized in accordance with reference (I).

ii) DoD family members are strongly recommended to follow the FHP guidance provided within this document for Service members during all travel.

iii) DoD civilian employees and DoD contractor personnel will conduct pre-travel screening as outlined above and are strongly recommended to follow the guidance provided within this document for Service members during all travel. Any applicable requirements in reference (b) must be met prior to returning to a DoD workplace.

b) Unofficial Travel (as set forth in reference (i))

i) Service members

- Should consult the COVID-19 Travel Restrictions Installation Status Update available at: https://www.defense.gov/explore/spotlight/coronavirus/ prior to travel.
- Will comply with military installation, State, and local government travel restrictions.
- Will comply with CDC guidance as well as their DoD Component-specific guidance and/or procedures for screening, ROM, and testing.

ii) DoD family members are strongly recommended to follow the FHP guidance provided within this document for Service members during all travel.

iii) DoD civilian employees and DoD contractor personnel are strongly recommended to follow the guidance provided above for Service members. Any applicable requirements in reference (b) must be met prior to returning to a DoD workplace.

Additional Guidance to Assist Commanders with Travel Decisions:

- The Department of Defense Joint Travel Regulations are available at:
  o https://www.defensetravel.dod.mil/site/travelreg.cfm


- The Defense Health Agency’s Armed Forces Health Surveillance Division provides a “Trajectory of Civilian COVID-19 Cases by County” for the United States at the AFHSB COVID-19 Dashboard, available at:
  o https://go.intelink.gov/25BWvsS
  o https://covid-status.data.mil/#/

- Travel Restriction Installation Status Updates, available at:
  o https://www.defense.gov/Explore/Spotlight/Coronavirus/

- CDC travel guidance updates are located at the following CDC websites:

- COVID-19 Signs and Symptoms are available at:

- The CDC definition of close contact is available at:

**Additional Guidance for Reserve and National Guard Personnel:**

- The Secretaries of the MILDEPs may issue any additional procedural guidance as appropriate for Reserve Component (RC) (including National Guard) personnel.
- RC (including National Guard) personnel on official travel will complete any required health and ROM measures, including home-based quarantine or self-isolation if required, prior to the end of the official duty period.