



PERSONNEL AND
READINESS

UNDER SECRETARY OF DEFENSE
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WASHINGTON, D.C. 20301-4000

MAR 16 2021

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

SUBJECT: Force Health Protection Guidance (Supplement 16) – Department of Defense Guidance for Deployment and Redeployment of Individuals and Units During the Coronavirus Disease 2019 Pandemic

- References:
- (a) Under Secretary of Defense for Personnel and Readiness Memorandum, “Force Health Protection Guidance (Supplement 9) – Department of Defense Guidance for Deployment and Redeployment of Individuals and Units during the Novel Coronavirus Disease 2019 Pandemic,” May 26, 2020 (hereby rescinded)
 - (b) Department of Defense Instruction (DoDI) 6490.03, “Deployment Health,” June 19, 2019
 - (c) Secretary of Defense Memorandum, “Military Service Pre-Deployment Medical Preparations in Support of Geographic Combatant Commands,” April 29, 2020
 - (d) Executive Order 13998, “Promoting COVID-19 Safety in Domestic and International Travel,” January 21, 2021
 - (e) Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, Department of Health and Human Services, Order Under Section 361 of the Public Health Service Act (42 U.S.C. 264) and 42 Code of Federal Regulations 71.20 & 71.31(b), “Requirement for Negative Pre-Departure COVID-19 Test Result of Documentation of Recovery from COVID-19 for All Airline or Other Aircraft Passengers Arriving into the United States from Any Foreign Country,” January 25, 2021
 - (f) DoDI 3020.41, “Operational Contract Support,” December 20, 2011
 - (g) Under Secretary of Defense for Personnel and Readiness Memorandum, “Force Health Protection Guidance (Supplement 11) – Department of Defense Guidance for Coronavirus Disease 2019 Surveillance and Screening with Testing,” June 11, 2020
 - (h) Acting Under Secretary of Defense for Personnel and Readiness Memorandum, “Force Health Protection Guidance (Supplement 15) Revision 1 – Department of Defense Guidance for Coronavirus Disease 2019 Laboratory Testing Services,” March 15, 2021
 - (i) Defense Health Agency COVID-19 Testing Protocols, Version 20, March 8, 2021
 - (j) DoD Manual 6025.18, “Implementation of the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act (HIPAA) Privacy Rule in DoD Health Care Programs,” March 13, 2019
 - (k) Secretary of Defense Memorandum, “Guidance for Commanders on Risk-Based Changing of Health Protection Condition Levels During the Coronavirus Disease 2019 Pandemic,” May 19, 2020

This memorandum rescinds reference (a) and provides updated force health protection (FHP) deployment and redeployment guidance for Service members (including Reserve Component (RC) and National Guard (NG) members in a title 10 or title 32 duty status) and DoD civilian employees deploying within and outside the United States during the coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19) pandemic, consistent with references (b), (c), (d), and (e).

DoD strongly recommends that DoD contractor employees deploying in support of DoD contracts also follow this DoD FHP guidance, consistent with references (b) and (f). If DoD contractor employees do not complete the same pre-deployment screening and restriction of movement (ROM) as Service members and DoD civilian employees as set forth in this guidance, they will not be allowed to undertake official travel with military or civilian personnel who have completed pre-deployment screening and ROM.

This guidance covers deployment to, and redeployment from, any operational area, including COVID-19 operational areas, to home station. In this guidance, "COVID-19 operational area" means a geographic area or location, overseas or in the United States, where Service members are deployed to provide operational support related to the COVID-19 response efforts during the COVID-19 national emergency. For the purposes of this memorandum, the term "home station" means the installation from which the deployment began, or in the case of deployed RC or NG members, their originating unit location (or home, if not deployed from the unit location or as part of their assigned unit).

DoD Component heads may implement more restrictive guidance and additional FHP measures based on Military Department and commanders' local risk assessments, in consultation with their medical staffs and public health authorities, and in accordance with applicable law.

DoD Component heads, in consultation with the Commanders of the Combatant Commands, may choose to exempt assigned air crew and aircraft maintenance 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 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 or testing requirements.

Deployment Requirements

(1) The Military Departments, as force providers, are responsible for providing medically ready forces, including forces free from current infection with COVID-19, to both Functional Combatant Commands and Geographic Combatant Commands (GCCs).

(2) Deploying forces will comply with the Electronic Foreign Clearance Guide (EFCG), including any EFCG requirements related to COVID-19 pertaining to entry, movement, or operations into a host nation (HN). Deploying forces will immediately notify the relevant GCC of any HN travel restrictions related to COVID-19 that are not addressed by the EFCG, and will consult with the GCC as to whether and how to address such restrictions, consistent with applicable law and existing agreements with the host nation.

(3) Defense Attaché Offices, in consultation with the GCC, will ensure that the EFCG for their respective HN reflects the current arrangement between the United States and the HN regarding COVID-19 requirements.

(4) All deploying Service members and DoD civilian employees will complete FHP pre-deployment requirements in accordance with reference (b), including completion of a Pre-Deployment Health Assessment (DD Form 2795) for deployments meeting the requirements of reference (b). This requirement applies to all Service members, including Active Component, RC, and NG personnel in a title 10 or title 32 duty status.

(5) Deploying Service members and DoD civilian employees will follow Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) travel guidelines for fully vaccinated individuals.

(6) Testing Guidance:

- All COVID-19 testing will be consistent with DoD COVID-19 testing guidance set forth in references (g), (h), and (i), as described below.
- As an additional DoD FHP measure, prior to departing from home station, personnel (with the exception noted below) deploying outside the United States will be tested at home station with a viral test¹ conducted on a sample collected 1 to 3 days before departure via commercial or military airlift. Personnel are required to maintain proof of negative COVID test during travel.
 - Testing completed as part of the 7-day ROM described in section (8), below, will meet the pre-flight testing requirement provided the testing is conducted 1 to 3 days before departure.
 - Completion of the 14-day ROM and 10-day ROM described in section (8) below, i.e., without testing, will not meet the pre-flight testing requirement. These individuals must be tested 1 to 3 days before departure.
- If the EFCG requires a specific test or timing of a test before travel to the destination location, personnel must follow such requirements.
- Every effort should be made to complete pre-departure testing; however, pre-travel testing may be waived if testing is not available or cannot be conducted in a timely manner. Approval authority for waiving pre-travel testing may be delegated in writing by the first general or flag officer, or equivalent civilian employee, in the chain of command or supervision to a level no lower than an appropriate officer in the grade of O-6, or civilian equivalent, in the program office or requiring activity. The approval authority should coordinate with the receiving command if applicable.

¹ Testing in this guidance refers to tests that utilize molecular or, in certain limited circumstances, antigen testing methods, in accordance with reference (i).

- Exception: Individuals fully recovered from a laboratory-confirmed diagnosis of COVID-19 infection within the previous 90 days prior to scheduled travel, are not required to undergo viral testing.

(7) Screening:

- For any deployment, regardless of duration, DoD Component heads will ensure that deploying individuals are appropriately screened at the assigned place of duty or point of embarkation. At a minimum, this screening will consist of an assessment of: COVID-19 immunization status and date of series completion; any prior COVID-19 disease within the last 90 days and exposure history; a temperature check; a check for COVID-19 signs and symptoms (e.g., fever, chills, rigors, muscle pain, headache, sore throat, changes in smell or taste, coughing, or shortness of breath); and review of any past COVID-19 test results. Personal health information necessary to accomplish such screening may be released in accordance with reference (j).
- A DoD or supporting healthcare provider must be available for consultation, if unable to administer the screening directly.
- DoD Component heads will ensure that symptomatic individuals consult with a healthcare provider for further assessment, testing (as applicable and available), and treatment. Individuals who meet the clinical case definition of a “probable” infection (absent a diagnostic test result), or who are confirmed COVID-19 positive during screening, should be isolated. Deploying personnel who have a medical issue identified during screening, or who refuse to be tested or screened, may have their deployment delayed or cancelled.
- DoD and OSD Component heads will ensure appropriate medical information is properly annotated in the Service member’s electronic health record, the DoD civilian employee’s occupational medical record, and the contractor’s appropriate medical record.

(8) ROM:

- The ROM location for Dynamic Force Employment organizations and individuals will be identified through a case-by-case determination coordinated with the force provider and GCC.
- Service members and DoD civilian employees deploying outside the United States will undergo a mandatory 14-day ROM prior to deployment to minimize the potential for infection transmission. The following exceptions apply to the mandatory 14-day ROM:
 - After an appropriate risk assessment, the head of an OSD Component or Secretary of a Military Department may, if host nation agreements allow, 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.

- If ROM is conducted prior to deployment, travel to the deployed location should, to the maximum extent possible, be in a manner that minimizes the risk of deploying personnel being exposed to, or infected with, COVID-19 during travel.
- For deployments outside the United States, if the HN requires a ROM upon arrival in the country, then a pre-deployment ROM is not required.
- For Navy 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 of COVID-19 have occurred while underway and no contact that would permit transmission of the virus has occurred with other vessels (e.g., resupply vessels).
- DoD Component heads, in consultation with the appropriate GCC, may request that the Secretary of Defense waive the ROM requirement if mission requirements dictate an expedited deployment.

(9) For DoD Contractor Employees:

- DoD contracting offices will ensure that all contracts that include performance outside the United States require DoD contractor employees to comply with the country entry requirements of the respective GCC (which may include screening, ROM, and testing), as reflected in the EFCG. DoD strongly recommends that deploying DoD contractor employees follow ROM procedures as well.

Redeployment Requirements

(1) All redeploying Service members and DoD civilian employees will complete FHP redeployment requirements in accordance with reference (b), including completion of a Post-Deployment Health Assessment (DD Form 2796) and Post-Deployment Health Reassessment (DD Form 2900) when deployments meet the requirements of reference (b) and warrant these assessments. This requirement applies to all Service members, including Active Component and RC personnel (including NG personnel in a title 10 or title 32 duty status).

(2) Redeploying Service members and DoD civilian employees will follow CDC travel guidelines for fully vaccinated individuals.

(3) Testing:

- All COVID-19 testing will be consistent with COVID-19 testing guidance set forth in references (g), (h), and (i).

- Prior to departing from a foreign country deployment location via air travel to the United States, personnel (with the exceptions noted below) will be tested with a viral test conducted on a sample collected 1 to 3 days before departure via commercial or military airlift. Personnel are required to maintain proof of negative COVID test during travel.
 - If ROM is completed prior to redeployment:
 - Testing completed as part of the 7-day ROM will meet the pre-flight testing requirement provided the testing is conducted 1 to 3 days before departure. Pre-departure testing is required when a 14 day ROM and 10-day ROM is completed prior to redeployment.
- If the EFCG requires a specific test or timing of a test before travel to the destination location, personnel must follow such requirements.
- Exceptions:
 - In accordance with reference (e), deployed DoD personnel, including military personnel, civilian employees, and DoD contractor employees, may be exempt from the pre-travel testing requirements when traveling on DoD aviation assets (military or contracted commercial airlift), provided that such individuals observe DoD precautions to prevent transmission of COVID-19 and the first general or flag officer or civilian equivalent in the chain of supervision approves the exception to testing.
 - For travel on other than DoD aviation assets, individuals fully recovered from a laboratory-confirmed diagnosis of COVID-19 infection within the previous 90 days are not required to undergo viral testing. Personnel are required to maintain documentation of recovery from COVID-19 during travel.

(4) Screening: Redeploying personnel will comply with the guidance provided for “Deployments Requirements” in section (7) above.

(5) ROM:

- The ROM location for Dynamic Force Employment organizations and individuals will be a case-by-case determination coordinated with the force provider and GCC.
- All redeploying Service members and DoD civilian employees, whether from a COVID-19 operational area or not, will adhere to the following guidance:
 - If redeploying from, or through, a foreign country, the individual will, unless otherwise not required to ROM, upon arrival at his or her destination domicile:
 - ROM for 14 days without testing; or

- If after an appropriate risk assessment, the head of an OSD Component or Secretary of a Military Department may decrease to a ROM for 10 days without testing; or decrease to a ROM for 7 days with a negative SARS-CoV-2 test within 48 hours prior to the end of the 7-day ROM.
 - If redeploying from within the United States:
 - Service members will undergo a risk-based screening to determine if a ROM is indicated.
 - DoD Component heads will apply the following CDC guidance in making the risk-based determination for ROM:
 - <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/php/public-health-recommendations.html>
 - <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/hcp/guidance-risk-assessment-hcp.html>
 - If indicated, the ROM will be performed at a location determined by the DoD Component. ROM locations may include home station, the individual's residence, or other suitable domicile.
 - For RC members, the ROM will be performed while the Service member remains on duty, and prior to the Service member's demobilization.
- Additionally, in making risk-based determinations for the 14-day ROM, DoD Component heads will consider implications of redeployment to or from locations with differing Health Protection Conditions consistent with reference (k).

(6) For DoD Contractor Employees:

- DoD contracting offices will ensure that all contracts that include performance outside the United States require DoD contractor employees to comply with the country entry requirements of the respective GCC (which may include screening, ROM, and testing), as reflected in the EFCG.

(7) DoD personnel whose presence is required in the DoD workplace who have redeployed to home station may be permitted to continue work when they would otherwise be in a ROM status, provided a health risk assessment is completed, they remain asymptomatic, they wear a face covering, they practice physical distancing, and an exception to continue work is granted. In addition, testing of these individuals for COVID-19 infection during ROM, prior to returning to work, is recommended.

Additional Redeployment Guidelines for Military Service Reserve and NG Personnel

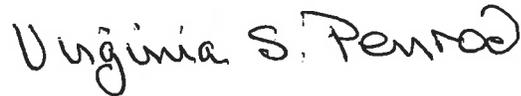
The Secretaries of the Military Departments may issue any additional procedural guidance as necessary for RC personnel. For NG members supporting Federal Emergency Management Agency mission assignments or for other activities undertaken by NG personnel in a title 10 or title 32 duty status, the Chief of the National Guard Bureau, in coordination with the Secretaries of the Army and the Air Force, may issue redeployment guidance to the States, territories, and the District of Columbia to support mission requirements, while minimizing risks to NG members and local communities. RC personnel in support of another department or agency will complete any required health and ROM measures, including home-based quarantine or self-monitoring, prior to the end of the period of support to that other department or agency.

Isolation Guidance for Potential COVID-19 Cases

Individuals who are identified as symptomatic, probable, or confirmed COVID-19 cases and are required to undergo isolation will be released from isolation in accordance with reference (j).

This memorandum and other COVID-19 guidance memoranda are centrally located at: <https://www.defense.gov/Explore/Spotlight/Coronavirus/Latest-DOD-Guidance/>.

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