



PERSONNEL AND
READINESS

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

SUBJECT: Force Health Protection Guidance (Supplement 16) Revision 1 – Department of Defense Guidance for Deployment and Redeployment of Individuals and Units During the Coronavirus Disease 2019 Pandemic

- References:
- (a) 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and Redeployment of Individuals and Units During the Coronavirus Disease 2019 Pandemic,” March 16, 2021, (hereby rescinded and replaced)
 - (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) Acting Under Secretary of Defense for Personnel and Readiness Memorandum, “Force Health Protection Guidance (Supplement 20) – Department of Defense Guidance for Personnel Traveling During the Coronavirus Disease 2019 Pandemic,” April 12, 2021
 - (h) 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
 - (i) 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
 - (j) Defense Health Agency COVID-19 Testing Protocols, Version 20, March 8, 2021, or current version

- (k) DoD Manual 6025.18, "Implementation of the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act (HIPAA) Privacy Rule in DoD Health Care Programs," March 13, 2019
- (l) Secretary of Defense Memorandum, "Guidance for Commanders' Risk-Based Responses and Implementation of the Health Protection Condition Framework During the Coronavirus Disease 2019 Pandemic," April 30, 2021
- (m) Acting Under Secretary of Defense for Personnel and Readiness Memorandum, "Force Health Protection Guidance (Supplement 18) – Department of Defense Guidance for Protecting All Personnel in Department of Defense Workplaces During the Coronavirus Disease Pandemic," March 17, 2021

This memorandum rescinds and replaces reference (a) and provides updated force health protection (FHP) deployment and redeployment guidance for Service 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 personnel deploying in support of DoD contracts also follow this DoD FHP guidance, consistent with references (b) and (f). If DoD contractor personnel do not complete the same pre-deployment screening and restriction of movement (ROM) period(s) 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.

FHP guidance for personnel conducting official and unofficial travel during the COVID-19 pandemic, including actions to take during required ROM, is included in reference (g).

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 Reserve Component (RC), including National Guard (NG), personnel, 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 (MILDEP) 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 MILDEPs, as force providers, are responsible for providing medically ready forces, including forces who are free from 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 HN.

(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 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 (h), (i), and (j), as described below.
- As an additional DoD FHP measure, prior to departing from home station, personnel (with the exceptions 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 their negative COVID-19 tests 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 one to 3 days before departure.
 - Completion of the 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.

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

- If the EFCG requires a specific test or timing of a test before travel to the destination location, personnel must follow such requirements. Deploying Service members and DoD civilian employees should follow HN testing requirements not reflected in the EFCG when required to do so by the relevant GCC.
- 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.
- Exceptions:
 - Individuals fully recovered from a laboratory-confirmed diagnosis of COVID-19, within the previous 3 months prior to scheduled travel, are not required to undergo viral testing, unless required by the relevant GCC as a means of respecting HN law.
 - Individuals who are 14 days post-completion of COVID-19 vaccination with a Food and Drug Administration (FDA)-authorized vaccine, and who 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 unless required by the relevant GCC as a means of respecting HN law.

(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 (k).
- 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” case of COVID-19 (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 Office of the Secretary of Defense (OSD) Component heads will ensure appropriate medical information is properly annotated in a Service member’s electronic health record, or a DoD civilian employee’s occupational medical record, and will provide the appropriate medical information to a DoD contractor employee for his or her personal use.

(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 complete at least a mandatory 10-day ROM prior to deployment to minimize the potential for transmission of SARS-CoV-2 (the virus that causes COVID-19). The following exceptions apply to the mandatory 10-day ROM:
 - After an appropriate risk assessment, the head of an OSD Component or Secretary of a MILDEP may, if consistent with GCC arrangements with HNs, decrease to a ROM of 7 days for personnel with a negative viral test administered within 48 hours prior to the end of the 7-day ROM.
 - Unless otherwise required by the relevant GCC as a means of respecting HN law or by a more restrictive DoD policy, pre- and post-travel ROM is not required for individuals who are:
 - Fully recovered from a laboratory-confirmed diagnosis of COVID-19 within the previous 3 months prior to travel; or
 - 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.
 - Individuals will continue to adhere to public health measures, such as physical distancing to the greatest extent possible and mask wearing.
- 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, SARS-COV-2 during travel.
- For deployments outside the United States, if the relevant GCC requires a ROM upon arrival in the country as a means of respecting HN law, then a pre-deployment ROM is not required.
- 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 of COVID-19 have occurred while underway and there has been no contact with personnel from other vessels (e.g., resupply vessels) that would permit transmission.
- 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.
- GCCs, in accordance with their authorities to restrict access to DoD facilities and installations outside the United States, may exempt fully vaccinated Allied Forces from ROM requirements when the administered vaccine has been approved by the respective Allied Forces' regulatory organization responsible for such approval.

(9) For DoD Contractor Personnel:

- DoD contracting offices 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 EFCG. DoD strongly recommends that deploying DoD contractor personnel 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 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 (h), (i), and (j).
- 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 their negative COVID-19 tests 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 10-day ROM or longer is completed without testing 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.
- Testing for COVID-19 is also required between 3 and 5 days after travel in accordance with CDC guidance.
- 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. However, these individuals will complete post-travel testing and ROM after arrival in the United States as described in section (3) above and section (5) below.
 - For travel on other than DoD aviation assets, individuals fully recovered from a laboratory-confirmed diagnosis of COVID-19 within the last 3 months are not required to undergo viral testing, nor viral testing between 3 and 5 days after travel, unless they are symptomatic. Personnel are required to maintain during

travel documentation of recovery from COVID-19. This exception does not apply to fully vaccinated travelers.

(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.
- With the exceptions noted below, 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 at least 10 days without testing; or
 - If after an appropriate risk assessment, the head of an OSD Component or Secretary of the MILDEP may 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 ROM period, DoD Component heads will consider implications of redeployment to or from locations with differing Health Protection Conditions consistent with reference (1).
- Exceptions to ROM: unless otherwise required by the HN (and approved by the GCC) or a more restrictive DoD policy, pre- and post-travel ROM is not required for individuals who are:
 - Fully recovered from a laboratory-confirmed diagnosis of COVID-19 within the previous 3 months prior to travel; or
 - 14 days post-completion of COVID-19 vaccination with a FDA-authorized vaccine and who 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.

(6) For DoD Contractor Personnel:

- DoD contracting offices 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 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 accordance with reference (m). In addition, testing of these individuals for COVID-19 during ROM, prior to returning to work, is recommended.

Additional Redeployment Guidelines for Military Service Reserve and NG Personnel

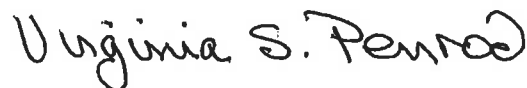
The Secretaries of the Military Departments may issue any additional procedural guidance as necessary for RC personnel. For NG members supporting Federal Emergency Management Agency mission assignments or for other activities undertaken by NG personnel in a title 10 or title 32 duty status, the Chief 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 (i).

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. Steve Jones, who may be reached at (703) 681-7335 or steven.p.jones10.civ@mail.mil.



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