

# FACT SHEET – TRAVEL RESTRICTIONS

(MAY 26, 2020)

**Today, Secretary Esper signed a memo to transition to a conditions-based phased approach to personnel movement and travel restrictions.**

## BACKGROUND

While the COVID-19 pandemic still presents risk to DOD Service members, their families, and our civilian workforce, improving conditions warrant a transition in our approach to domestic and overseas personnel travel to a conditions-based, phased approach to personnel movement and travel.

The memo cancels previous travel restrictions ([April 20, 2020](#)) and reissues guidance for DOD components that will remain in effect until further notice.

## WHAT'S NEW?

### Travel Restrictions

All DOD service members, and DOD civilian personnel and dependents of DOD service members and of DOD civilian personnel whose travel is Government-funded, will stop movement, both internationally and domestically, while this memorandum is in effect, unless the conditions listed below are met. Except as provided by the conditions below, and for exemptions and waivers described elsewhere in this memorandum, this stop movement applies to all official travel, including:

- temporary duty (TDY) travel
- government-funded leave travel
- permanent duty travel, including Permanent Change of Station (PCS) travel
- travel related to Authorized and Ordered Departures issued by the Department of State.

For DOD service members, it also includes personal leave outside the local area and non-official travel outside the local area. DOD Components may onboard civilian employees within the local commuting area only, unless their travel to the local commuting area is not government-funded.

### Conditions for Unrestricted Travel

Conditions to resume unrestricted travel rests on two overarching factors: 1) state and/or regional criteria based on the White House's Opening Up America Again guidelines and 2) installation-level factors based on conditions on and surrounding DOD installations, facilities, and locations.

Using the Guidelines for Opening Up America Again as a baseline, and guidance from the Department of Health and Human Services and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, the Under Secretary of Defense for Personnel and Readiness will continuously assess each U.S. state or territory and nations that host greater than 1,000 permanently assigned DOD personnel, for:

- Removal of shelter-in-place orders or other travel restrictions
- 14-day downward trajectory of flu-like and COVID-19 symptoms
- 14-day downward trajectory of new COVID-19 cases or positive tests

### **Stage 2: DOD Installations, Facilities and Locations**

The Secretaries of the Military Departments and the Commanders of the Combatant Commands will continuously assess the conditions of each DOD, installation, facility, or location under their purview for:

- Removal of local travel restrictions;
- Availability of essential services including schools, childcare, moving services;
- The capability to perform the quality control/assurance functions for household goods packing and movement; and
- Favorable Health Protection Conditions (below HPCON C)
  - Medical Treatment Facility capacity
  - Testing capability in accordance with the Department's tiered priority framework to include sentinel surveillance and for at-risk healthcare workers
  - The capacity to isolate individuals returning from high exposure locations

### **WHERE CAN I FIND THE MEMO?**

The full memo can be found on [defense.gov](https://www.defense.gov/Explore/Spotlight/Coronavirus/) on the COVID-19 page:  
<https://www.defense.gov/Explore/Spotlight/Coronavirus/>.