

COVID-19 Travel and Transportation Allowances Questions and Answers

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This document provides answers to frequently asked questions regarding Travel and Transportation Allowances during the COVID-19 pandemic. Section I applies to civilian employees and their dependents. Section II applies to Service members and their dependents. The Secretary of Defense's ["Updated to Conditions-based Phased Approach to Coronavirus Disease 2019 Personnel Movement and Travel Restrictions"](#) signed March 15, 2021, and additional information in the Travel Restrictions Fact Sheet can be found at <https://www.defense.gov/Explore/Spotlight/Coronavirus/Latest-DOD-Guidance/>

I. Civilian Employees and Dependents

- 1. If I am performing a permanent change of station and am ordered into isolation or quarantine by a public health, medical, or DoD official at a port of entry before proceeding to my new permanent duty station, what allowances am I authorized?**

You may be authorized per diem (lodging, meals, and incidental expenses) while awaiting transportation unless lodging in kind and meals in kind are provided to you. Follow the guidance in the Secretary of Defense's [Update to Conditions-based Approach to Coronavirus Disease 2019 Personnel Movement and Travel Restrictions](#) signed March 15, 2021, which states authorized travelers who departed their permanent duty station and are "awaiting transportation" are exempt from travel restrictions and are authorized to continue travel to their final destination.

- 2. If I am performing a permanent change of station and am ordered into isolation or quarantine at my new permanent duty station, what allowances am I authorized?**

You are not authorized any additional PCS allowances.

- 3. If I am performing a permanent change of station and am ordered to temporarily return to my old permanent duty station, what allowances am I authorized?**

You may be authorized per diem (lodging, meals, and incidental expenses) while awaiting transportation. You should contact your new duty station to determine whether you are considered to be awaiting transportation, or if they are going to provide you temporary duty orders to your old permanent duty station. Dependent travelers may receive per diem if they are in an awaiting transportation status.

Follow the guidance in the Secretary of Defense's [Update to Conditions-based Approach to Coronavirus Disease 2019 Personnel Movement and Travel Restrictions](#) signed March 15, 2021, which states authorized travelers who departed their permanent duty station and are "awaiting transportation" are exempt from travel restrictions and are authorized to continue travel to their final destination.

4. If I am performing a permanent change of station and am ordered to permanently return to my old permanent duty station or my orders are amended to name a different permanent duty station, what allowances am I authorized?

You are authorized permanent change of station allowances (lodging, meals, and incidental expenses) and transportation in accordance with JTR Sections 0538 and 0539.

5. If I am performing a permanent change of station and am ordered to remain at a port of departure until transportation is available, what allowances am I authorized?

You may be authorized per diem (lodging, meals, and incidental expenses) while awaiting transportation in accordance with JTR Section 0539.

Follow the guidance in the Secretary of Defense's [Update to Conditions-based Approach to Coronavirus Disease 2019 Personnel Movement and Travel Restrictions](#) signed March 15, 2021, which states authorized travelers who departed their permanent duty station and are "awaiting transportation" are exempt from travel restrictions and are authorized to continue travel to their final destination.

6. If I am performing a permanent change of station and am ordered to travel to an alternate location until transportation is available, what allowances am I authorized?

You may be authorized per diem (lodging, meals, and incidental expenses) while awaiting transportation. You should contact your new duty station to determine whether you are considered to be awaiting transportation, or if they are going to provide you temporary duty orders. Dependent travelers may only receive per diem if they are in an awaiting transportation status

Follow the guidance in the Secretary of Defense's [Update to Conditions-based Approach to Coronavirus Disease 2019 Personnel Movement and Travel Restrictions](#) signed March 15, 2021, which states authorized travelers who departed their permanent duty station and are "awaiting transportation" are exempt from travel restrictions and are authorized to continue travel to their final destination.

7. Am I exempt from travel restrictions if I received temporary quarters subsistence expense (TQSE), my household goods have been picked up, and I have permanently moved out of my residence?

Yes, you may be exempt under the Secretary of Defense's [Update to Conditions-based Approach to Coronavirus Disease 2019 Personnel Movement and Travel Restrictions](#) signed March 15, 2021, subsection d, which states, "d. Travel by authorized travelers who departed their permanent duty station and are awaiting transportation, and by authorized travelers who have already initiated travel (including those at intermediate stops in such travel). Such travelers are authorized to continue travel to their final destination on approved orders."

8. If I have permanent change of station orders and I have already departed or detached from my old permanent duty station, can my dependents receive safe haven allowances?

No, safe haven allowances would not apply in this situation unless your new permanent duty station is in a country where the Secretary of State has issued an Authorized or Ordered Departure and will not allow departed employees or eligible family members to return and Stop Forward Movement has been ordered by the Department of Defense. However, you may be authorized per diem (lodging, meals, and incidental

expenses) while awaiting transportation. You should contact your new duty station to determine whether you are considered to be awaiting transportation, or if they are going to provide you Temporary Duty Travel Orders. Dependent travelers may only receive per diem if they are in an awaiting transportation status.

Follow the guidance in the Secretary of Defense's [Update to Conditions-based Approach to Coronavirus Disease 2019 Personnel Movement and Travel Restrictions](#) signed March 15, 2021, which states authorized travelers who departed their permanent duty station and are "awaiting transportation" are exempt from travel restrictions and are authorized to continue travel to their final destination.

- 9. If I am pending retirement or separation in the CONUS or OCONUS during the stop movement period, am I exempt from travel restrictions in the Secretary of Defense's [Update to Conditions-based Approach to Coronavirus Disease 2019 Personnel Movement and Travel Restrictions](#) signed March 15, 2021?**

Yes, you are exempt and you may coordinate with your component to finalize your PCS.

- 10. If my employment is terminated OCONUS during the stop movement period, am I exempt from travel restrictions in the Secretary of Defense's [Update to Conditions-based Approach to Coronavirus Disease 2019 Personnel Movement and Travel Restrictions](#) signed March 15, 2021 and may my component or command send me back to the United States?**

Yes, you are exempt. Your component or command may arrange to send you back to the United States.

- 11. If I am diagnosed with a "quarantinable communicable disease" at a temporary duty location, and am ordered into isolation or quarantine by a public health or medical official at the temporary duty location, what allowances am I authorized?**

Your TDY orders could be extended to cover the time you are in isolation or quarantine. If you are in a sick leave status, you may be authorized per diem (lodging, meals and incidental expenses) for up to 14 days. Per diem may be extended if authorized by the Service or DoD Component in accordance with JTR par. 033002-B. If lodging in kind and meals in kind are provided, then you may not be authorized per diem.

- 12. If I am returning from temporary duty travel including return from deployment and am ordered into isolation or quarantine by a public health or medical official at a port of entry or debarkation, including while awaiting a COVID-19 test result, before proceeding to the permanent duty station, what allowances am I authorized?**

You may be authorized standard travel and transportation allowances in accordance with JTR Chapter 2 while awaiting transportation. Your temporary duty travel orders could be amended to extend the temporary duty assignment.

Follow the guidance in the Secretary of Defense's [Update to Conditions-based Approach to Coronavirus Disease 2019 Personnel Movement and Travel Restrictions](#) signed March 15, 2021, which states authorized travelers who are returning from TDY are authorized to continue travel to their PDS.

- 13. If I am returning from temporary duty travel including return from deployment and am ordered into isolation or quarantine at my permanent duty station, what allowances am I authorized?**

You are not authorized travel and transportation allowances.

14. If I am returning from personal leave to my permanent duty station and transportation is not available or I am ordered not to return to my permanent duty station, what allowances am I authorized?

You are not authorized travel and transportation allowances. However, if you are placed on a temporary duty travel order before returning to your permanent duty station, then you may receive standard travel and transportation allowances in accordance with JTR Chapter 2.

15. If my dependent is a student receiving transportation to or from school, and is ordered into isolation or quarantine at a port of entry by a public health, medical, or DoD official before proceeding to the permanent duty station or school, what allowances am I authorized?

You are authorized travel and transportation expenses for your dependent.

16. If my dependent is a student and is ordered into isolation or quarantine at the permanent duty station or school, what allowances am I authorized?

You are not authorized travel and transportation allowances for your dependent student.

17. If my dependent is a student, their school has closed and they cannot return home because of the Secretary of Defense's stop movement order, what allowances am I authorized?

You may be authorized allowances in accordance with JTR, par. 053806 and [Department of State Standardized Regulations \(DSSR\) § 280](#) for your dependent student while awaiting transportation. Please refer to Department of State (DoS) guidance.

18. If my dependent is a student that cannot return home because my permanent duty station is in a country where the Secretary of State has Authorized or Ordered Departure and will not allow departed employees or eligible family members to return and Stop Forward Movement has been ordered by the Department of Defense, what allowances may be authorized for my dependent?

Your dependent student may be authorized safe haven allowances in accordance with JTR, Section 0604.

19. If my dependent is in the United States for medical travel and cannot return home because my permanent duty station is in a country where the Secretary of State has Authorized or Ordered Departure and will not allow departed employees or eligible family members to return and Stop Forward Movement has been issued by the Department of Defense, what allowances may be authorized for my dependent?

You may be authorized safe haven allowances for your dependent in accordance with JTR, Section 0604.

20. If I am a civilian employee and ordered into isolation or quarantine at my permanent duty station, what allowances am I authorized?

You are not authorized travel and transportation allowances.

21. If my dependent is ordered into isolation or quarantine at my permanent duty station, what allowances am I authorized?

You are not authorized travel and transportation allowances for your dependent.

22. If I am a civilian employee, returning from Government-funded leave and ordered into isolation or quarantine by a public health, medical, or DoD official at a port of entry before proceeding to the permanent duty station, what allowances am I authorized?

You are not authorized travel allowances, including per diem, for Government-funded leave under JTR, par. 040101. If you are a civilian employee returning from renewal agreement travel (RAT), you may be authorized per diem (lodging, meals, and incidental expenses) while awaiting transportation as long as lodging in kind or meals in kind are not provided. If you are placed on a temporary duty travel order before returning to your permanent duty station, then you may receive standard travel and transportation allowances in accordance with JTR Chapter 2.

23. If my dependent is returning from Government-funded leave and ordered into isolation or quarantine by a public health, medical, or DoD official at a port of entry before proceeding to the permanent duty station, what allowances am I authorized?

You are not authorized travel and transportation allowances for your dependent.

24. If I am on Government funded leave and I cannot return home because of the Secretary of Defense's stop movement order, what allowances am I authorized?

You are authorized safe haven allowances only when your permanent duty station is in a location where the Secretary of State has Authorized or Ordered Departure and will not allow departed employees or eligible family members to return and Stop Forward Movement has been ordered by the Department of Defense. However, if you are not eligible for safe haven allowances, you may be placed on a temporary duty travel order away from your permanent duty station, and may receive standard travel and transportation allowances in accordance with JTR Chapter 2.

25. Are there exceptions to the Fly America Act prohibition against flying on a foreign flag carrier?

Yes, a civilian employee or their dependent may fly on a foreign flag carrier if there is no U.S. flag carrier available. The travel management company and AO must provide documentation to support use of a foreign flag carrier as required by JTR, par. 020206-I and applicable Service regulations.

26. Are there situations when DoD travelers may fly under an Open Skies Agreement?

Yes, the restriction on Open Skies Agreement travel only applies to travel funded by DoD. If you are a DoD traveler, but your travel is funded by a non-DoD agency, such as Department of State, then you may be eligible to use an Open Skies Agreement.

27. Is using a foreign air carrier considered a matter of necessity if the only available U.S. flag carrier connects at an airport in a DoD travel restricted location?

Your agency can determine that use of a foreign air carrier is a matter of necessity to protect the traveler's safety.

28. Is my evacuation travel covered under the Global Authorized Departure Extension Memorandum effective September 10, 2020?

If you are a civilian employee or eligible family member (EFM) who evacuated under the original Global Authorized Departure memo that became effective March 14, 2020 and have not returned to your PDS OCONUS, then this memorandum applies to you. DoD EFMs and civilian employees who did not have travel orders approved prior to May 7, 2020, may no longer depart.

Under the October 13, 2020 memo, “Authorized Departure Transition and Termination – Individuals at Higher Risk from COVID-19,” the Global Authorized Departure ends on December 9, 2020.

29. What evacuation allowances do I receive under the Global Authorized Departure Extension Memorandum effective September 10, 2020?

On September 9, 2020, regardless of whether you have reached 180 days in an evacuation status, you will transition to full evacuation allowances under the Global Authorized Departure effective September 10, 2020, for 30 days. DOS has reduced the evacuation allowances for the remaining evacuation period. Evacuation allowances will be reduced by 50 percent from October 10, 2020 through November 8, 2020, and by 75 percent from November 9, 2020 through December 8, 2020.

Under the October 13, 2020 memo, “Authorized Departure Transition and Termination – Individuals at Higher Risk from COVID-19,” the Global Authorized Departure ends on December 9, 2020.

Summary of Allowance Payments

Period	Lodging Rate	M&IE Rate (18 and Over)	M&IE Rate (under 18)
Days 1-30 Sep. 10-Oct. 9	100%	80%	40%
Days 31-60 Oct. 10-Nov. 8	50%	40%	20%
Days 61-90 Nov. 9-Dec. 8	25%	20%	10%

30. May I be reimbursed for the cost of obtaining a COVID-19 test for myself or my dependent that is required for official travel?

Maybe, but only if the test is mandated by law for official travel to or from an OCONUS destination and is not available through a Federal dispensary. If a free test is available through a federal dispensary, medical treatment facility, or the cost is covered by insurance, then no reimbursement for a test is authorized. You may not be reimbursed for the cost of the COVID-19 test when performing “transportation only” funded leave travel, such as emergency leave and Funded Environment Morale Leave.

31. May I be reimbursed for the cost of obtaining a COVID-19 test for myself or my dependent during foreign OCONUS travel?

Maybe, a COVID-19 test is only reimbursable when mandated by law for official travel to or from an OCONUS destination.

32. May I be reimbursed for the cost of obtaining a COVID-19 test for personal convenience so that I will not be required to quarantine or self-isolate at home?

No.

II. Service Members and Dependents

1. If I am performing a permanent change of station and am ordered into isolation or quarantine by a public health, medical or DoD official at a port of entry before proceeding to my new permanent duty station, what allowances am I authorized?

You may be authorized per diem (lodging, meals, and incidental expenses) while awaiting transportation as long as lodging in kind or meals in kind are not provided.

Follow the guidance in the Secretary of Defense’s [Update to Conditions-based Approach to Coronavirus Disease 2019 Personnel Movement and Travel Restrictions](#) signed March 15, 2021, which states authorized travelers who departed their permanent duty station and are “awaiting transportation” are exempt from travel restrictions and are authorized to continue travel to their final destination.

2. If I am performing a permanent change of station and am ordered into isolation or quarantine at my new permanent duty station, what allowances am I authorized?

If a public health official, medical official, or authorizing official orders you or your dependents to isolate or quarantine after detaching or signing out of your unit, then you are authorized per diem (lodging, meals, and incidental expenses) for the time you are in isolation or quarantine at your new permanent duty station in accordance with JTR, par. 050106. Once released, you are authorized to receive your Temporary Lodging Expense or Temporary Lodging Allowance, depending on whether your new permanent duty station is in the CONUS or OCONUS.

3. If I am performing a permanent change of station and am ordered to temporarily return to my old permanent duty station or alternate location, what allowances am I authorized?

You may be authorized per diem (lodging, meals, and incidental expenses) while awaiting transportation as long as lodging in kind or meals in kind are not provided.

Follow the guidance in the Secretary of Defense’s [Update to Conditions-based Approach to Coronavirus Disease 2019 Personnel Movement and Travel Restrictions](#) signed March 15, 2021, which states authorized travelers who departed their permanent duty station and are “awaiting transportation” are exempt from travel restrictions and are authorized to continue travel to their final destination.

4. If I am on temporary duty and am en route when I am ordered to return to my permanent duty station, what allowances am I authorized?

You may be authorized standard travel and transportation allowances in accordance with JTR Chapter 2 to return to your permanent duty station.

5. If I am performing a permanent change of station and am ordered to permanently return to my old permanent duty station or my orders are amended to name a different permanent duty station, what allowances am I authorized?

You are authorized permanent change of station allowances in accordance with JTR par. 051206.

6. If I am performing a permanent change of station and am ordered to remain at a port of departure until transportation is available, what allowances am I authorized?

You may be authorized per diem (lodging, meals, and incidental expenses) while awaiting transportation as long as lodging in kind or meals in kind are not provided.

Follow the guidance in the Secretary of Defense's [Update to Conditions-based Approach to Coronavirus Disease 2019 Personnel Movement and Travel Restrictions](#) signed March 15, 2021, which states authorized travelers who departed their permanent duty station and are "awaiting transportation" are exempt from travel restrictions and are authorized to continue travel to their final destination.

7. If I am performing a permanent change of station and am ordered to travel to an alternate location until transportation is available, what allowances am I authorized?

You may be authorized per diem (lodging, meals, and incidental expenses) while awaiting transportation as long as lodging in kind or meals in kind are not provided.

Follow the guidance in the Secretary of Defense's [Update to Conditions-based Approach to Coronavirus Disease 2019 Personnel Movement and Travel Restrictions](#) signed March 15, 2021, which states authorized travelers who departed their permanent duty station and are "awaiting transportation" are exempt from travel restrictions and are authorized to continue travel to their final destination.

8. Am I exempt from travel restrictions if I receive temporary lodging expenses (TLE), my household goods have been picked up, and I have permanently moved out of my residence?

Yes, you may be exempt under the Secretary of Defense's [Update to Conditions-based Approach to Coronavirus Disease 2019 Personnel Movement and Travel Restrictions](#) signed March 15, 2021, subsection d, which states, "d. Travel by authorized travelers who departed their permanent duty station and are awaiting transportation, and by authorized travelers who have already initiated travel (including those at intermediate stops in such travel). Such travelers are authorized to continue travel to their final destination on approved orders."

9. If I have permanent change of station orders and I have already departed or detached from my old permanent duty station, can I receive safe haven allowances for my dependents?

No, safe haven allowances would not apply unless the Secretary of State has Authorized or Ordered Departure and will not allow departed eligible family members to return and Stop Forward Movement has been ordered by the Department of Defense. However, you may be authorized per diem (lodging, meals, and incidental expenses) while awaiting transportation as long as lodging in kind or meals in kind are not provided.

Follow the guidance in the Secretary of Defense’s [Update to Conditions-based Approach to Coronavirus Disease 2019 Personnel Movement and Travel Restrictions](#) signed March 15, 2021, which states authorized travelers who departed their permanent duty station and are “awaiting transportation” are exempt from travel restrictions and are authorized to continue travel to their final destination.

- 10. If I am pending retirement or separation in the CONUS or OCONUS during the stop movement period, am I exempt from the requirements of the Secretary of Defense’s [Update to Conditions-based Approach to Coronavirus Disease 2019 Personnel Movement and Travel Restrictions](#) signed March 15, 2021?**

Yes, you are exempt and you may coordinate with your component to finalize your PCS.

- 11. If I am diagnosed with a “quarantinable communicable disease” at a temporary duty location, and am ordered into isolation or quarantine by a public health or medical official at the temporary duty location, what allowances am I authorized?**

You may be authorized standard travel and transportation allowances in accordance with JTR Chapter 2. Your temporary duty travel orders could be amended to extend your temporary duty assignment.

- 12. If I am returning from temporary duty travel, including return from deployment, and am ordered into isolation or quarantine by a public health, medical, or DoD official at a port of entry or debarkation, including while awaiting a COVID-19 test result, before proceeding to my permanent duty station, what allowances am I authorized?**

You may be authorized standard travel and transportation allowances in accordance with JTR Chapter 2 while awaiting transportation. Your temporary duty travel orders could be amended to extend the temporary duty assignment.

- 13. If I am returning from temporary duty travel, including return from deployment, and am ordered into isolation or quarantine at my permanent duty station, what allowances am I authorized?**

You may be provided lodging and meals in kind, but you are not authorized any additional travel and transportation allowances.

- 14. If I am returning from personal leave and transportation is not available or I am ordered not to return to my permanent duty station, what allowances am I authorized?**

You are not authorized travel and transportation allowances. However, if you are placed on a temporary duty travel order away from your permanent duty station then you may receive standard travel and transportation allowances in accordance with JTR Chapter 2.

- 15. If I am a Service member returning from Government-funded leave and am ordered into isolation or quarantine by a public health, medical, or DoD official at my permanent duty station, what allowances am I authorized?**

You may be provided lodging and meals in kind, but you are not authorized any additional travel and transportation allowances.

16. If my dependent is returning from Government-funded leave and is ordered into isolation or quarantine at my permanent duty station without lodging and meals provided in kind, what allowances am I authorized?

You are not authorized travel and transportation allowances at your permanent duty station for your dependent.

17. If I am a Service member, returning from Government-funded leave and am ordered into isolation or quarantine by a public health, medical, or DoD official at a port of entry before proceeding to the permanent duty station, what allowances am I authorized?

In accordance with JTR, par. 040102, you may be issued temporary duty orders and may receive standard travel and transportation allowances in accordance with JTR Chapter 2. If lodging in kind or meals in kind are provided, then per diem is not payable.

18. If my dependent is returning from Government-funded leave and is ordered into isolation or quarantine by a public health, medical, or DoD official at a port of entry before proceeding to the permanent duty station, what allowances am I authorized?

You are not authorized travel and transportation allowances for your dependent.

19. If I am on Government-funded leave and I cannot return home because of a stop movement order, what allowances am I authorized?

You are not authorized travel and transportation allowances. However, if you are placed on a temporary duty travel order away from your PDS, you may receive standard travel and transportation allowances in accordance with JTR Chapter 2.

20. If my dependent is returning from Government-funded leave and cannot return home?

You are not authorized travel and transportation allowances unless the Secretary of State has Authorized or Ordered Departure and will not allow departed eligible family members to return and Stop Forward Movement has been ordered by the Department of Defense.

21. If my dependent is a student traveling from school, and is ordered into isolation or quarantine at a port of entry by a public health or medical official before proceeding to the permanent duty station or school, what allowances am I authorized?

You may be authorized per diem (lodging, meals, and incidental expenses) in accordance with JTR, par. 050816-D4, as long as lodging in kind or meals in kind are not provided for your dependent.

22. If my dependent is a student, their school has closed and they cannot return home because of a stop movement order, what allowances am I authorized?

You may be authorized lodging expenses for your dependent while awaiting transportation in accordance with JTR, par. 050816-D3, as long as lodging in kind is not provided.

23. If my dependent is a student that cannot return home because my permanent duty station is in a country where the Secretary of State has Authorized or Ordered Departure and will not allow departed employees or eligible family members to return and Stop Forward Movement has been ordered by the Department of Defense, what allowances may be authorized for my dependent.

Your dependent student may be authorized evacuation allowances.

24. If my dependent is a student and is ordered into isolation or quarantine at the school, what allowances am I authorized?

You are not authorized travel and transportation allowances for your dependent.

25. If my dependent is ordered into isolation or quarantine at the permanent duty station, what allowances am I authorized?

You are not authorized travel and transportation allowances for your dependent.

26. If my dependent is a student that cannot return home because my permanent duty station is in a country where the Secretary of State has Authorized or Ordered Departure and will not allow departed Service members or eligible family members to return, and Stop Forward Movement has been issued by the Department of Defense, what allowances may be authorized?

You may be authorized safe haven allowances for your dependent in accordance with JTR, Section 0602 for your dependent.

27. If my dependent is in the United States for medical travel and they cannot return home because my permanent duty station is in a country where the Secretary of State has Authorized or Ordered Departure and will not allow departed Service members or eligible family members to return, and Stop Forward Movement has been issued by the Department of Defense, what allowances may be authorized?

You may be authorized safe haven allowances for your dependent in accordance with JTR, Section 0602.

28. If I am a Service member and am ordered into isolation or quarantine at the permanent duty station, what allowances am I authorized?

You are not authorized travel and transportation allowances.

29. Are there exceptions to the Fly America Act prohibition against flying on a foreign flag carrier?

Yes, a Service member or their dependent may fly on a foreign flag carrier if there is no U.S. flag carrier available or if foreign air carrier service is deemed a matter of necessity. The travel management company and AO must provide documentation to support use of a foreign flag carrier as required by JTR, par. 020206-I and applicable Service regulations.

30. Is using a foreign air carrier considered a matter of necessity if the only available U.S. flag carrier connects at an airport in a DoD travel restricted location?

Your agency can determine that use of a foreign air carrier is a matter of necessity to protect the traveler’s safety.

31. Are there situations when DoD travelers may fly on a foreign flag carrier under an Open Skies Agreement?

Yes, the restriction on Open Skies Agreement travel only applies to travel funded by DoD funds. If you are a DoD traveler, but your travel is funded by a non-DoD agency, such as Department of State, then you may be eligible to use an Open Skies Agreement.

32. Is my evacuation travel covered under the Global Authorized Departure Extension Memorandum effective September 10, 2020?

If you are an EFM who evacuated under the original Global Authorized Departure memo that became effective March 14, 2020 and have not returned to your PDS OCONUS, then this memorandum applies to you. DoD EFM’s and civilian employees who did not have travel orders approved prior to May 7, 2020, may no longer depart.

Under the October 13, 2020 memo, “Authorized Departure Transition and Termination – Individuals at Higher Risk from COVID-19,” the Global Authorized Departure ends on December 9, 2020.

33. What evacuation allowances do I receive under the Global Authorized Departure Extension Memorandum effective September 10, 2020?

On September 9, 2020, regardless of whether you have reached 180 days in an evacuation status, you will transition to full evacuation allowances under the Global Authorized Departure effective September 10, 2020, for 30 days. The evacuation allowances for the remaining evacuation period are reduced by 50 percent from October 10, 2020 through November 8, 2020, and by 75 percent from November 9, 2020 through December 8, 2020.

Under the October 13, 2020 memo, “Authorized Departure Transition and Termination – Individuals at Higher Risk from COVID-19,” the Global Authorized Departure ends on December 9, 2020.

Summary of Allowance Payments

Period	Lodging Plus M&IE Rate (12 and Over)	Lodging Plus M&IE Rate (under 12)
Days 1-30 Sep. 10-Oct. 9	100%	50%
Days 31-60 Oct. 10-Nov. 8	50%	25%
Days 61-90 Nov. 9-Dec. 8	25%	12.5%

34. May I be reimbursed for the cost of obtaining a COVID-19 test for my dependent that is required for official travel?

Maybe, but only if the test is mandated by law for official travel to or from an OCONUS destination and is not available through a Federal dispensary. If a free test is available through a federal dispensary, medical treatment facility, or the cost is covered by insurance, then no reimbursement for a test is authorized. You may not be reimbursed for the cost of the COVID-19 test when performing “transportation only” funded leave travel, such as emergency leave and Funded Environmental and Morale Leave.

35. May I be reimbursed for the cost of obtaining a COVID-19 test for myself that is required for official travel to or from an OCONUS destination?

Service members traveling from a foreign OCONUS location to the United States on official duty may be exempt from the requirement to present a negative COVID-19 test. However, if there is no exemption, and the test is mandated by law for official travel to or from an OCONUS destination, then you may be eligible for reimbursement. If a free test is available through a federal dispensary, medical treatment facility, or the cost is covered by insurance, then no reimbursement for a test is authorized. You may not be reimbursed for the cost of the COVID-19 test when performing “transportation only” funded leave travel, such as emergency leave and Funded Environment Morale Leave.

36. Am I required to obtain a negative COVID-19 test for entry into the United States?

No, provided that the authority ordering the travel requires precautions to prevent the possible transmission of infection to others during the travel period in accordance with CDC guidance, Service members are exempt from the requirement to present a negative COVID-19 test to enter the United States.

See CDC Order, “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” which can be found at https://www.cdc.gov/quarantine/pdf/global-airline-testing-order_2021-01-2_R3-signed-encrypted-p.pdf.

37. May I be reimbursed for the cost of obtaining a COVID-19 test for personal convenience so that I will not be required to quarantine or self-isolate at home?

No.