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MEMORANDUM FOR SENIOR PENTAGON LEADERSHIP

SUBJECT: Updated Travel, Foreign Visitor, and Testing Guidance

International and Domestic Travel Guidance

The Office of Management and Budget continues to direct that Federal personnel should adhere strictly to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) guidelines before, during, and after travel, regardless of whether the travel is personal or for official business.

In response to this continued direction, effective on the date of this memorandum, the Secretary of Defense has directed that all official international travel for senior DoD leadership (Deputy Secretary of Defense, Secretaries of the Military Departments, Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, Under Secretaries of Defense, Vice Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, Chiefs of the Military Services, Chief of the National Guard Bureau, and Assistant Secretaries of Defense) continue to be minimized to only that which is absolutely operationally required or critical to advancing the mission of the DoD. The Secretary of Defense expects all DoD leaders to exercise significant discretion with respect to international travel as most U.S. embassies are still not operating at full capacity, nor have fully vaccinated¹ personnel that would support normal levels of senior-level official travel.

Any international official travel should also comply with CDC guidelines. All air passengers coming to the United States, **including fully vaccinated individuals**, are required to have a negative COVID-19 test result no more than 3 days before travel or documentation of recovery from COVID-19 in the past 3 months before they board a flight to the United States. Additionally, all travelers will be tested 3-5 days after returning, regardless of vaccination status, but are exempt if the traveler has recovered from COVID-19 in the past 3 months. Travelers who are not fully vaccinated will observe a mandatory 7 days of self-quarantine.

With regards to domestic travel, CDC does not require that domestic travelers undergo a mandatory federal quarantine, but does provide the following recommendations:

If you are fully vaccinated, take the following steps:

1. During Travel - Wear a mask over your nose and mouth, avoid crowds, stay at least 6 feet/2 meters (about 2 arm lengths) from anyone who is not traveling with you and wash your hands often or use hand sanitizer (with at least 60% alcohol).
2. After travel - Self-monitor for COVID-19; isolate and get tested if you develop symptoms. Follow all state and local recommendations or requirements.

¹ Individuals who are 14 days post-completion of COVID-19 vaccination with a Food and Drug Administration (FDA)-authorized vaccine.



If you are not fully vaccinated and must travel, take the following steps to protect yourself and others from COVID-19:

1. Before you travel get tested with a viral test 1-3 days before your trip.
2. During Travel - Wear a mask over your nose and mouth, avoid crowds, stay at least 6 feet/2 meters (about 2 arm lengths) from anyone who is not traveling with you and wash your hands often or use hand sanitizer (with at least 60% alcohol).
3. After Travel.
 - a. Get tested with a viral test 3-5 days after travel AND stay home and self-quarantine for a full 7 days after travel.
 - If you test negative, stay home/self-quarantine for the full 7 days.
 - If you test positive, isolate for 10 days from the date of the test.
 - b. If you don't get tested, stay home and self-quarantine for 10 days after travel.
 - c. Avoid being around people who are at increased risk for severe illness for 14 days, whether you get tested or not.
 - d. Self-monitor for COVID-19; isolate and get tested if you develop symptoms.
 - e. Follow all state and local recommendations or requirements.

Testing Guidance


Fully vaccinated individuals or individuals that have documentation of recovery from COVID-19 in the past three months are exempt from routine screen testing requirements.

Foreign Visitors Guidance

The reception of official foreign visitors by senior DoD leadership (as defined above) will be reviewed and approved on a case-by-case basis by the Chief of Staff. Please submit all requests through the Executive Secretary.

Foreign delegation visits should be minimized to those visits critical to advancing the mission of the DoD. DoD senior leaders should continue maximize virtual engagements. Foreign delegations should also comply with CDC as well as state and local guidance. Foreign visitors are required to adhere to the same post travel testing requirements (test 3-5 days after travel). Foreign visitors that are fully vaccinated by a vaccine that is FDA approved or authorized for use under the World Health Organization's Emergency Use Listing procedures are also exempt from routine screen testing requirements.

This official travel and visitor guidance will be reviewed in thirty days.



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Executive Secretary