



# FACT SHEET

## Overseas Permanent Change of Station COVID-19 TESTING REQUIREMENTS

All Sailors and family members executing PCS orders to an OCONUS location are required to have a negative viral COVID-19 test (molecular or antigen). An antigen test may be used for testing prior to travel when a molecular test (such as polymerase chain reaction (PCR) or Abbott ID NOW) is not available. However, a molecular test is the preferred test prior to travel. If the destination location requires a specific test, test timing, or test result format, travelers must follow the more restrictive requirement prior to embarking an aircraft en route to an OCONUS command. At a minimum, all OCONUS travelers shall have a negative viral COVID-19 test administered within 72 hours of embarkation. Valid proof can be electronic or printed. Some countries require negative test results within 72 hours of arrival rather than embarkation. Testing is the member's responsibility.

Sailors should review the Foreign Clearance Guide (<https://www.fcg.pentagon.mil/fcg.cfm>) to determine entry requirements for their destination. Further, they are encouraged to register for the Smart Traveler Enrollment Program (STEP) through the U.S. State Department (<https://step.state.gov>). This service provides free updates from the nearest U.S. Embassy regarding travel requirements and safety conditions.

For more details, read NAVADMIN 03/21 at [www.npc.navy.mil](http://www.npc.navy.mil).

### Where to get tested

- Military Treatment Facilities (MTF) may execute free tests for service members and dependents if tests are scheduled prior to arrival and OCONUS orders are in hand.
- Hard copy documentation of test results should be provided within 24 hours of testing; this allows for testing in a different area than former duty station to account for leave or training en route.
- Two specific MTFs are staffed and funded to test the majority of travelers: Walter Reed for Baltimore (Baltimore AMC Gateway – (609) 253-8825, Walter Reed (301) 295-0269) and Madigan Army Hospital for Seattle (Seattle AMC Gateway (253) 982-3504/0555, Madigan Army Hospital (253) 967-3831).
- Service members can also use commercial testing sites that use PRC or Abbott ID Now tests.
- Commercial testing may not be covered by TRICARE, but expenses will be refunded via travel claim.
- Use your Government Travel Charge Card (if issued) or a travel advance to cover expenses if necessary.
- If TRICARE denies coverage, maintain copies of all charges to submit with your travel claim.
- Travelers who received the vaccination are not exempt from testing, and if they test positive will still be required to conduct Restriction of Movement (ROM).

### Preferred MTF Test Sites

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| <p><b>Pacific</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Camp Pendleton, CA, (760) 685-3537, 27/7 testing available</li> <li>• Bremerton, WA, (360) 340-5335, testing 9 a.m. – 10 p.m.</li> <li>• Madigan AMC. Joint Base Lewis-McChord, WA, (253) 968-4443, testing 6 a.m. – 5 p.m.</li> </ul> <p><b>Atlantic</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Portsmouth, VA, (757) 953-6200, 24/7 testing available</li> <li>• Jacksonville, FL, (994) 250-6188, 24/7 testing available</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Camp Lejeune, NC, (910) 450-2956, 24/7 testing available</li> <li>• Fort Belvoir, VA, COVID Clinic (571) 231-0532, testing 8 a.m. – 4 p.m.</li> <li>• Fort Belvoir, VA CDO (571) 585-6066, 24/7 testing available</li> <li>• Walter Reed, Central Screening, (571) 335-9985, testing 7 a.m. – 4 p.m.</li> <li>• Walter Reed, CDO, (301) 547-1161, 24/7 testing available</li> </ul> |
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### What to Do if You Test Positive

- Sailor or family member who test positive for COVID-19 while executing PCS orders should immediately start ROM procedures. If one member of the family tests positive, the entire family must ROM.
- Locations for ROM should be in the following priority: 1. Aerial Port of Embarkation, 2. Home or detaching installation, 3. Nearby family member, 4. Nearby acceptable military installation, 5. Nearby acceptable hotel.
- If at a Patriot Express port, U.S. Transportation Command/Air Mobility Command (AMC) will take responsibility for the Sailor and family members.
- Contact the MyNavy Career Center (MNCC) at 1-833-330-MNCC (6622) or via email at [askmncc@navy.mil](mailto:askmncc@navy.mil). Provide contact information and they will notify the Sailor's detailer and Navy Passenger Transportation Office (NAVPTO).
- Communicate with your detailer and NAVPTO for potential orders modifications and re-booking of travel. You must provide proof of a COVID-19 positive test.
- ROM expenses will be covered.
- Sailors and their families may secure from ROM once they meet the criteria outlined in NAVADMIN 298/20. However, travel should only continue after conferring with detailers/AMC.
- A molecular COVID-19 test may continue to produce positive results after recovery from COVID-19. Consult medical, FCG, and State Department guidance to determine if your destination will allow entry with a letter from a physician.

### Questions and Concerns

Contact the MyNavy Career Center (MNCC) Contact Center at 1-833-330-6622 or via email at [askmncc@navy.mil](mailto:askmncc@navy.mil).

### ~ Questions & Answers ~

#### Q1. What do I need to do right now?

A1. To ensure Sailors are not turned away or unnecessarily delayed during travel, all Sailors and family members must determine their individual requirements based upon destination location. Refer to the [Foreign Clearance Guide \(FCG\)](https://www.fcg.pentagon.mil/index.html) (<https://www.fcg.pentagon.mil/index.html>) and your airline's policy for additional guidance.

#### Q2. How or where do I get tested?

A2. Military Treatment Facilities (MTF) may execute free tests for service members and families if tests are scheduled prior to arrival and OCONUS orders are in hand. Hard copy test results will be delivered within 24 hours of the test. This allows for testing in a different area than the detaching duty station to account for leave or training in route.

Baltimore or Seattle Patriot Express (PE). If flying aboard a Patriot Express flight departing from Baltimore or Seattle, Madigan Army Hospital (Seattle) or Walter Reed Hospital (Baltimore) will provide free tests for service members and families.

Points of contact for preferred military treatment facilities:

#### Pacific

- Camp Pendleton, CA, (760) 685-3537, 27/7 testing available
- Bremerton, WA, (360) 340-5335, testing 9 a.m. – 10 p.m.
- Madigan AMC. Joint Base Lewis-McChord, WA, (253) 968-4443, testing 6 a.m. – 5 p.m.

#### Atlantic

- Portsmouth, VA, (757) 953-6200, 24/7 testing available
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- Walter Reed, CDO, (301) 547-1161, 24/7 testing available

Commercial Travel not near an MTF, Madigan Army Hospital or Walter Reed Hospital. Utilize commercial sites that support molecular-based tests (PCR and Abbott ID Now) to satisfy this testing requirement. TRICARE may not fund travel-based tests. Members are required to pay for these tests themselves or with their GTCC. Test costs will be reimbursed once your travel claim is liquidated. If you do not have a GTCC or the funds to pay for these tests, it is highly recommended that you request advance travel pay.

### **Q3. What if I've received a COVID-19 vaccination?**

A3. Travelers who have received the vaccination are not exempt from the testing requirement.

### **Q4. Can I use my GTCC for this or get reimbursed if I pay for the test out in town?**

A4. The COVID-19 test for the purpose of PCSing overseas is authorized to be reimbursed via a travel claim and can also be charged to their GTCC. If a service member needs an increased credit limit on their GTCC while travelling they can contact MNCC at 1-833-330-MNCC (6622). The agent will create a case for the service member requesting a GTCC credit limit increase. Please be advised that the CPPA ProCell personnel who can process the request are only available Monday through Friday. Also please be aware that if you are using your GTCC, you are not eligible to request a travel advance.

The COVID-19 testing required for OCONUS travel are listed as reimbursable #6 of the Joint Travel Regulations - <https://www.defensetravel.dod.mil/Docs/perdiem/JTR.pdf> (pg 2-48) which states: Charges for immunizations, inoculations, and other disease-preventive medical prophylaxes, including disease testing, that are required for official travel OCONUS, but are not available through a Federal dispensary. Only the cost of the immunization, or inoculation, or test is reimbursable, not the medical office visit.

### **Q5. What happens if I test positive?**

A5. Sailors or family member(s) that test positive for COVID-19 while executing OCONUS travel must do the following:

- a. Execute restriction of movement (ROM) procedures. If a member of a family unit tests positive, the entire family unit must commence ROM. Travelers may not proceed separately:

- 1) If at an intermediate stop or on leave en route, stop travel and commence ROM immediately. If nearby a military installation, call ahead for lodging, pet services, and other support. Apply strict adherence to force protection health guidance and return to work criteria.

- 2) If at a Patriot Express port, USTRANSCOM/AMC will take immediate responsibility for the Sailor and family member(s), to include: medical, lodging, pet services, meals and transportation support at nearby military installations or participating lodging sites. While in ROM, travelers will adhere to AMC guidance.

- b. Contact MNCC. Available 24/7, by phone at 1-833-330-MNCC (6622) or email at [askmncc@navy.mil](mailto:askmncc@navy.mil). Provide good contact information to the servicing MNCC agent. The servicing MNCC agent will take appropriate action to notify the sailor's detailer and Navy Passenger Transportation Office (NAVPTO).

- c. Communicate with your detailer and NAVPTO agent. The detailer and NAVPTO agent will contact the Sailor to discuss orders modification (ORDMOD) and to re-book future travel. Proof of positive test result(s) must be provided.

- d. ROM expenses shall be provided. ORDMODs will ensure per diem is available and reimbursable for qualified expenses incurred during the ROM period. A Sailor may elect to use his/her GTCC to pay for qualified expenses incurred during the ROM period. Alternatively, Sailors may request a travel advance by contacting MNCC, regardless of GTCC possession.

- e. Secure from ROM. Once the Sailor and family member(s) meet requirements to return to work, in accordance with Bureau of Medicine and Surgery (BUMED) return to work guidance as reflected in NAVADMIN 298/20, in conjunction with any medical provider guidance, they may continue execution of their orders. Sailors should not continue without conferring with detailers. Sailors and detailers should be proactive to continue travel as soon as possible.