



# FACT SHEET

## COVID-19 Testing Prior to Official Overseas Travel

All Active Duty Service Members (ADSM) and family members traveling outside the continental United States (OCONUS) on official orders are required to have a negative viral COVID-19 test (molecular such as Abbott ID Now/PCR or antigen). 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 site. Valid proof can be electronic or printed, based upon country entry requirements which should be verified by the traveler to avoid delays, fines, or other complications. Proof will be requested prior to military flights but may also be required for commercial flights. At a minimum, all OCONUS travelers shall have a negative viral COVID-19 test administered within 3 days of embarkation. Some countries require negative test results within 3 days of arrival rather than embarkation. Testing is the member's responsibility.

Individuals 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.

Travelers must also be tested within 3 days prior to return to the U.S. Ensure you have a testing plan OCONUS.

### Where to Get Tested for Official Travel

- Military Treatment Facilities (MTF) may execute free tests for service members and dependents for official travel.
- For the SOUTHCOM Army Health Clinic, supervisors should submit a memo detailing the date of travel, location of travel, and the type of test required for entry to the country. Submit the memo as soon as the need for a COVID-19 test is identified to: [usarmy.gordon.medcom-eamc.mbx.southcom-lab-covid-19@mail.mil](mailto:usarmy.gordon.medcom-eamc.mbx.southcom-lab-covid-19@mail.mil). The laboratory will then send a calendar invite for testing along with additional screening documentation to bring. For any questions, please contact the Lab at 305-437-1163/1164/3742. The COVID trailer is available weekdays during 0730-1200 and 1300-1430hr; be sure to make arrangements ahead of time.
- MTFs should provide a hard copy documentation of test results within 24 hours of testing.
- Service members can also use commercial testing sites. These sites may not be covered by TRICARE, but expenses can 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 they will still be required to conduct Restriction of Movement (ROM).

### What to Do if You Test Positive

- Contact your chain of command immediately.
- Individuals or family member who test positive for COVID-19 while executing OCONUS travel orders should immediately start ROM procedures. If one member of the family tests positive, the entire family must ROM.

### What if You Previously Tested Positive ≤ 90 Days Prior Travel

- A molecular COVID-19 test may continue to produce positive results after recovery from COVID-19. If unable to achieve a negative result, consult with medical provider, Foreign Clearance Guidance, and State Department guidance to determine if your destination will allow entry with a letter from a physician.

For more information regarding USSOUTHCOM Guidance, please visit the COVID-19 Resource Page at <https://www.southcom.mil/coronavirus/>.