

UNCLASSIFIED



PERSONNEL AND
READINESS

OFFICE OF THE UNDER SECRETARY OF DEFENSE
4000 DEFENSE PENTAGON
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20301-4000

MAR 20 2020

MEMORANDUM FOR SECRETARIES OF THE MILITARY DEPARTMENTS
CHAIRMAN OF THE JOINT CHIEFS OF STAFF
COMMANDERS OF THE COMBATANT COMMANDS
DIRECTORS OF DEFENSE AGENCIES
DIRECTORS OF DOD FIELD ACTIVITIES

SUBJECT: Authorized Departure — Individuals at Higher Risk from COVID-19

The Department of State (DOS) has approved an Authorized Departure from any diplomatic or consular post for eligible family members (EFMs), including DoD EFMs, and civilian personnel — to include a civilian employee and/or other EFMs who may need to accompany them — who have determined they are at higher risk of a poor outcome if exposed to COVID-19 or who have requested departure based on a commensurate justification in foreign areas, effective March 14, 2020. DOS employees must consult confidentially with DOS' Medical Evaluation Division before they make this determination.

DoD EFMs and civilian employees who have determined they are at higher risk of a poor health outcome if exposed to COVID-19 or who have requested departure based on a commensurate justification in foreign areas — as well as a civilian employee and/or other EFMs who may need to accompany them — are authorized to depart their current duty station. DoD civilian employees occupying emergency positions who wish to depart their duty station must consult with their supervisor. The designated safe-haven for departing DoD EFMs is the United States. The designated safe-haven for departing DoD civilian employees is Arlington, Virginia.

Authorized departures are only permitted when appropriate transportation and reception procedures are in place, consistent with the travel restrictions issued by the Secretary of Defense on March 11, 2020. Organizations must establish pre- and post-travel screening and reception procedures for all travelers, to include providing Service members or DoD civilian employees information regarding prescribed actions for themselves and their EFMs given their particular circumstances.

The Authorized Departure will remain in effect until terminated by DOS.

All travel arrangements must be made in accordance with the JTR. DoD EFMs of Service members will be processed for safe-haven allowances in accordance with the Joint Travel Regulations (JTR), Chapter 6 (Evacuation Travel), paragraph 0602. DoD civilian employees and their EFMs will be processed for allowances in accordance with the JTR, Chapter 6, paragraph 0604.

The DoD point of contact is Ms. Ann Lee, Office of the Executive Director, who may be reached at ann.y.lee6.civ@mail.mil or (703) 693-3002.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Alexis Lasselle Ross".

Alexis Lasselle Ross
Performing the Duties of the Under Secretary of
Defense for Personnel and Readiness

UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

cc:

Chief Management Officer
Under Secretary of Defense for Policy,
Chief Operating Officer
Deputy Chief of Staff G1, U.S. Army
Chief of Naval Personnel
Deputy Chief of Staff for Personnel,
U.S. Air Force
Deputy Commandant for Manpower
and Reserve Affairs, U.S. Marine Corps
Deputy Assistant Secretary of Defense
for Military Personnel Policy
Deputy Assistant Secretary of Defense
for Civilian Personnel Policy
Deputy Assistant Secretary of Defense
for Military Community & Family Policy
Director for Manpower and Personnel,
Joint Chiefs of Staff J-1
Director for Manpower and Personnel,
European Command J-1
Headquarters, Department of the Army Personnel
and Education-Mobilization Operations
Defense Intelligence Agency, DXS-4B
Defense Travel Management Office