



Troop Card

Discontinued APOE COVID support services, testing

Final | Current a/o July 1, 2021

BACKGROUND: Due to data-driven analysis and the increased availability of COVID-19 testing centers and vaccines, beginning July 15, 2021, on-site COVID-19 testing services at stateside Patriot Express aerial ports of embarkation at Baltimore/Washington International Airport, Maryland, and Seattle-Tacoma International Airport, Washington will discontinue. Members must still present a valid, negative COVID-19 test, vaccination, waiver and/or proof of recovery, in accordance with Force Health Protection Guidance and as required by their destination, or they will be denied travel.

In November 2020, in order to mitigate the spread of COVID-19 and to meet the long-standing commitments to our allies and partners, the Department of Defense initiated rapid, on-site COVID-19 testing and support services for passengers departing BWI and SEATAC aboard Patriot Express flights for official duty at overseas locations. Airmen assigned to the aerial ports of embarkation over the last seven months worked tirelessly to ensure the threat and spread of the Coronavirus was mitigated and families could travel safely and smoothly to their OCONUS destination.

Q&A

Q. How do I determine whether or not I need proof of my negative COVID-19 test, vaccination, waiver or proof of recovery in order to travel?

A. For specific details regarding travel documentation requirements, refer to the [Electronic Foreign Clearance Guide](#). Travelers should plan accordingly to ensure sufficient time for scheduling testing appointments or coordinating proof of recovery requirements. These specifications vary between destinations.

Members may also consult Medical Treatment Facilities or Unit Deployment Managers for specific travel documentation requirements and advice for mitigating risk to travel.

Q. What is an acceptable proof of negative COVID-19 test, vaccination, waiver or proof of recovery?

A. For specific details regarding travel documentation requirements, refer to the [Electronic Foreign Clearance Guide](#). Travelers should plan accordingly to ensure sufficient time for scheduling testing appointments or coordinating proof of recovery requirements. These specifications vary between destinations.

Members may also consult Medical Treatment Facilities or Unit Deployment Managers for specific travel documentation requirements and advice for mitigating risk to travel.

Q. What if I already have proof of my negative COVID-19 test in my medical records?

A. Personnel at AMC aerial ports of embarkation will not have the ability to pull proof of negative testing from your medical records. Travelers must present a valid, paper-copy of negative COVID-19 test, vaccination, waiver and/or proof of recovery, as required by their destination, or they will be denied travel.

Q. Why is on-site rapid testing being discontinued?

UNCLASSIFIED

A. Due to data-driven analysis and the increased availability of testing centers and COVID-19 vaccines, CONUS-based aerial ports of embarkation are no longer providing COVID-19 support services and testing. In accordance with Force Health Protection Guidance and Host Nation requirements, members and families must now arrive at the terminal with the proper COVID-19 mitigation documentation or risk delay in travel and potential for additional unnecessary inconveniences (i.e. isolation/quarantine).

Q. Who made the decision to discontinue testing and support services?

A. The decision to discontinue COVID-19 testing and support services at CONUS-based aerial ports of embarkation was made by U.S. Transportation Command in coordination with the Office of the Under Secretary of Defense based on a data-driven analysis and recommendation from Air Mobility Command.

Q. What type of COVID-19 test is required?

A. COVID-19 test and documentation requirement details may vary between destinations.

For specific details regarding travel documentation requirements, refer to the [Electronic Foreign Clearance Guide](#). Travelers should plan accordingly to ensure sufficient time for scheduling testing appointments or coordinating proof of recovery requirements.

Q. For official travel, is the passenger responsible for scheduling/financing their test?

A. Yes, travelers are responsible for scheduling and financing their COVID-19 tests. COVID-19 tests are an authorized, reimbursable Government Travel Card expense for servicemembers and dependents if the test is mandated by law for *official travel* to or from a foreign OCONUS destination. 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 only be reimbursed for the cost of the COVID-19 test and not for the cost of the office visit.

Q. For Space-A travel, is the passenger responsible for scheduling/financing their test?

A. Yes, travelers are responsible for scheduling and financing their COVID-19 tests. In addition, Space-A travelers still require an Exception to Policy (ETP) memorandum to travel in accordance with the Office of the Under Secretary of Defense (OUSD) Space-Available Travel Program Limitations Due to Coronavirus Disease 2019, dated 15 March 2021.

Q. What do I do if I test positive before my flight? Can I reschedule my flight for after my isolation period?

A. Members and dependents denied travel due to a positive COVID-19 test, close contact with a COVID-19 patient or suspected infection will be instructed to go into isolation (if ill) or quarantine (if exposed, but not ill) and will be cleared once they meet CDC requirements for release. In most circumstances this involves a 10-day isolation period. Service or family members that are close contacts of a traveler who tests positive will need to complete a 14-day quarantine period. There is no testing out of isolation/quarantine. In addition, proof of recovery from isolation may be required by destination.

It's recommended that members required to undergo isolation/quarantine inform their Chain of Command immediately, contact their local Travel Management Office to reschedule their flight and consult the [Electronic Foreign Clearance Guide](#) for destination-specific requirements.

Q. If support services are discontinuing, is transportation, lodging and sustenance during isolation reimbursable?

A. Each military service will produce testing-related travel guidance for its members.

Refer to service component policy regarding reimbursements. Per Force Health Protection Guidelines and the [Electronic Foreign Clearance Guide](#), travelers should schedule and receive a COVID-19 test or proof of recovery prior to departing home station and arriving at the terminal. Following this guidance will mitigate risk to travel and help members and families avoid unnecessary inconveniences.

Members may consult Medical Treatment Facilities or Unit Deployment Managers for specific travel documentation requirements and additional advice for mitigating risk to travel.

Q. What, if any, support services will still be provided?

A. Beginning July 1, 2021, coordination of support services at CONUS-based APOE for Patriot Express passengers denied boarding due to a positive COVID-19 test, close contact with a COVID-19 patient or suspected COVID-19 infection will discontinue. Following this change, services will determine support to their members including transportation, lodging, and sustenance. On July 15, 2021, Patriot Express terminals will discontinue on-site testing and on-site screening teams will provide a list of local testing sites for families to fulfill the requirement.

For specific details regarding travel documentation requirements, refer to the [Electronic Foreign Clearance Guide](#). Travelers should plan accordingly to ensure sufficient time for scheduling testing appointments or coordinating proof of recovery requirements. These specifications vary between destinations.

Members may also consult Medical Treatment Facilities or Unit Deployment Managers for specific travel documentation requirements and additional advice for mitigating risk to travel.

Q. If I test negative for COVID-19 or have been vaccinated, do I still have to wear a mask during the flight?

A. Yes, the Center for Disease Control requires all passengers on public conveyances traveling into, within, or out of the United States and U.S. territories, or in transportation hubs in the United States and U.S. territories to properly wear a mask.

Q. Is there any age exemption for testing?

A. Age exemptions vary between destinations. For specific details regarding travel documentation requirements, refer to the [Electronic Foreign Clearance Guide](#). Travelers should plan accordingly to ensure sufficient time for scheduling testing appointments or coordinating proof of recovery requirements.

Members may also consult Medical Treatment Facilities or Unit Deployment Managers for specific travel documentation requirements and additional advice for mitigating risk to travel.

Q. Does this mean COVID-19 is behind us and Space-A travel can re-open to all categories?

A. The Office of the Under Secretary of Defense (OUSD) continuously monitors the environment for the potential to ease restrictions on the Space-A program. A future resumption will balance risk to the force with the use of this valuable benefit.