

**Department of  
Veterans Affairs**

# Memorandum

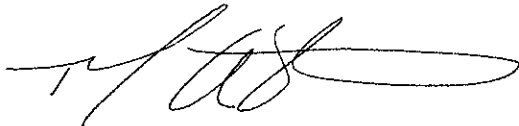
Date: MAR 09 2020

From: Executive in Charge, Office of the Under Secretary for Health (10)

Subj: Mission Critical Travel (VIEWS 2541442)

To: Veterans Health Administration Employees

1. While the Centers for Disease Control (CDC) still considers COVID-19 to be a low threat to the general American public, the Department of Veterans Affairs remains focused on caring for patients, protecting employees and maintaining readiness.
2. Out of an abundance of caution, only mission critical Veterans Health Administration (VHA) travel is approved. All other VHA travel is canceled for the next 30 days as a proactive action in response to the COVID-19 outbreak. "Mission- critical" will be determined by local leadership. Keeping our workforce stationary will give us the ability to better isolate affected areas and ensure the stability of operations as we monitor, prepare for and respond to the outbreak.
3. It is important to note that we are taking this action because we want to ensure continuity of operations and not because there is an elevated risk of travel at this time. The CDC still considers the immediate health risk from COVID-19 to the American public to be low.
4. This is the right thing to do, because we place the utmost value on the health and safety of Veterans and our employees. We will keep you updated on new developments as information is made available. For COVID-19 guidance, visit the [HCI Sharepoint site](#).



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