

**Department of  
Veterans Affairs**

**Memorandum**

Date: June 9, 2020  
From: Executive in Charge, Office of the Under Secretary for Health (10)  
Subj: Mission Critical Travel  
To: Veterans Health Administration (VHA) Employees

1. VA remains focused on caring for patients, protecting employees and maintaining readiness during the COVID-19 pandemic. The guidelines in *Opening Up America Again* found at <https://www.whitehouse.gov/openingamerica/#guidelines> provide a three-phase approach for states and regions to open their communities. Phase I of the guidelines recommend that work-related travel be minimized and adhere to CDC guidelines.
2. For an additional 30 days, only mission critical VHA travel is approved. All other VHA travel is canceled 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 a better ability to isolate affected areas and ensure stability of operations as we continue to monitor and respond to the pandemic.
3. Moving ahead in a world with COVID-19 will take careful planning at VHA. 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 at <https://dvagov.sharepoint.com/sites/VACOVHAPublicHealth/HCI/SitePages/Home.aspx>



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