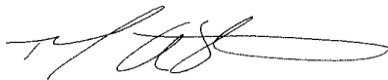


**Department of
Veterans Affairs**

Memorandum

Date: April 19, 2021
From: Acting Under Secretary for Health, Office of the Under Secretary for Health (10)
Subj: Mission Critical Travel
To: Veterans Health Administration (VHA) Employees

1. VA continues to propel forward with vaccination efforts while caring for patients, protecting employees, and maintaining readiness during the COVID-19 pandemic. Safe travel is promoted in Goal 5 (Safely Reopen Schools, Businesses, and Travel While Protecting Workers) in [The Biden-Harris plan to beat COVID-19](#) via the [Executive Order on Protecting the Federal Workforce and Requiring Mask-Wearing](#) and the [Executive Order on Promoting COVID-19 Safety in Domestic and International Travel](#). Additionally, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention has specific travel guidance on a variety of topics on its [travel webpage](#).
2. For an additional 90 days, necessary travel will still require SES-level approval. Prior to approving, leaders should review the geographic location of the requested travel and take into account the rate of infection in that area and any restrictions that require quarantine at the travel location or when the employee returns from the event.
3. VHA continues to 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 [HCl SharePoint page](#).



Richard A. Stone, M.D.
Acting Under Secretary for Health