

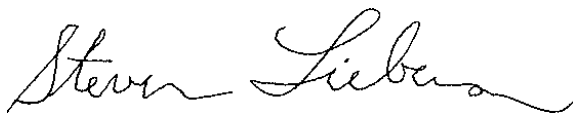
Date: December 28, 2021

From: Deputy Under Secretary for Health, Performing the Delegable Duties of the Under Secretary for Health (10)

Subj: COVID-19: Authorization for VHA Travel (VIEWS 6568854)

To: Veterans Integrated Service Network (VISN) Directors (15N1 – 15N23)
VISN Chief Medical Officers
VISN Chief Nurse Officers

1. This memorandum provides updated guidance to Veterans Health Administration Central Office (VHACO), VISN and VA Medical Center (VAMC) leadership regarding VHA-sponsored travel and official employee leave for VHA travel. This guidance reflects the impact of the COVID-19 delta and omicron variants in the United States. Please refer to the Center for Disease Control & Prevention (CDC) for the most current information at [Omicron variant](#).
2. For the next 60 days, only mission critical VHA travel is approved. All other VHA travel is cancelled as a proactive action in response to the current COVID-19 surge. "Mission critical" will be determined by local leadership on a case-by-case basis and include travel to provide clinical coverage in VHA or under approved Fourth Mission assignments.
3. Facility leadership should continue to monitor community disease rates and take appropriate action to screen and test staff returning from VHA mission critical travel per policy. The latest policy on Disaster Emergency Medical Personnel System (DEMPS) sponsored travel can be found [here](#).



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