

FAQ about Pre-Travel COVID-19 Tests

1. Do I need a Pre-Travel COVID-19 Test leaving Okinawa?

a. Per CDC guidance released on 11 June 2022 with an effective date of 0001 EDT 12 June 2022, press statements made by the White House, and USFJ Force Health Protection Order 22-005 published on 12 June 2022, pre-travel testing is no longer required for SOFA members on flights bound for the U.S. (COMAIR and MILAIR/PE).

b. If going to a location that requires pre-travel testing: COMAIR 1 day prior to flight; MILAIR 3 days prior to flight (we recommend testing 2 days prior to account for any flight delays); ensure you check and comply with the Foreign Clearance Guide requirements regarding your international destination.

2. Do I need a Pre-Travel COVID-19 test to return to Japan? (2 options):

a. Personnel who are fully vaccinated and have received at least one booster are not required to conduct an entry test in order to enter Japan. Children 6 and under may assume the vaccination status of their least vaccinated parent/guardian present during travel. For example, if a family of three (two parents and 6 year old) are traveling to Japan, if both parents have received at least one COVID-19 booster vaccination, an unvaccinated 6 year old does not need a pre-travel or arrival test. Personnel who have not received at least one booster have the following two options:

(1) (Option 1) All personnel who have not received at least one booster (to include age 2 or younger) may conduct a pre-travel molecular COVID-19 test (nucleic acid amplification test i.e. RT-PCR, LAMP, TMA, NEAR [e.g. Abbott ID-NOW]) no more than 72 hours before departure via commercial or military air. If results are negative, these personnel are exempt from ROM and arrival testing, regardless of vaccination status.

(2) (Option 2) Personnel who conduct pre-travel antigen testing are required to conduct arrival testing at point of entry. If results are negative these personnel are clear to proceed to final destination. If you test positive on arrival testing, you will isolate at a GoJ isolation facility (GoJ officials at the airport will coordinate this) or may attempt to arrange transportation to a U.S. installation via GOV or POV through their command. If GOV or POV transportation to a U.S. installation cannot be arranged, they will have to complete an isolation period at a GoJ isolation facility (GoJ officials at the airport will coordinate). AMC flights will accept 90 Day Recovery Letters with no issue, the GoJ will not.

3. When and where do I go if going to international location that requires pre-travel testing?

a. Monday-Friday: MCIPAC-MCBB personnel will utilize USNHO drive thru. Weekend/Holiday testing for all SOFA personnel is conducted at the USNHO Drive Through.

USNHO Drive-Thru Testing

Departure flight is on...	Your test collection day is...	At this location:
Monday via MILAR	Saturday	USNHO Drive Through
Tuesday via MILAR	Saturday	
Wednesday via MILAR	Monday	
Thursday via MILAR	Tuesday	
Friday via MILAR	Wednesday	
Saturday via MILAR	Thursday	

Sunday via MILAR	Friday	
COMAIR	1 day prior IAW USNHO Drive Through Hours	

- USNHO Drive Through is open seven days a week from 0730-1200. See FIGURE 1 graphic.

4. How do I obtain my results?

a. For those with TriCare, test results will post in your TriCare Online account. Results will typically post in 2-4 hours if needing a 1 day test and on in the evening following your 3 day test.

b. For those without TriCare, please drop off a completed DD-2870 (boxes 1-13) at the time of your Drive-Through test. Explain your flight information in Box 8; an example is on the USNHO webpage. Your result will be emailed to the address you provide on the next calendar day.

5. What if it is the afternoon of the next day and I still do not have my results?

a. If it is after 2000 on the next day and you do not yet have your results, you should call your command/organization COVID-19 representative for assistance and they will help investigate.

6. I'm having symptoms that could be COVID-19. May I use the Pre-Travel COVID-19 Testing Line?

a. The laboratory process is a bit different for people with symptoms, so we ask that you do not go for your travel test. Instead, contact your COVID-19 representative, call the Nurse Advice Line at 1-800-TRICARE, or schedule an appointment with your primary care manager to report your symptoms and arrange for diagnostic testing. This test will come back in plenty of time for your flight, and if the result is negative, you will still be permitted to depart. If you need immediate attention, go to the Emergency Department at the USNHO.

7. I have recovered from COVID-19. Do I still need the test?

a. If you have had COVID-19 within the last 3 months, you do not need to be retested. Bring your isolation discharge paperwork and a letter from a licensed healthcare provider or a public health official stating you are cleared to travel with you.

FIGURE 1 – USNHO Drive-Thru Testing

