



**COVID-19
RESPONSE**

**United Nations
Department of Peace Operations
Department of Political and Peacebuilding Affairs
Department of Operational Support**

Revised Measures for Uniformed Personnel Rotations in a COVID-19 Environment

Effective 1 November 2022. Revised October 2022.

Introduction and Purpose

1. This guidance document sets out the temporary and extraordinary transitional measures for uniformed rotations, repatriations, and deployments (hereafter referred to as “rotations”) to and from United Nations Peacekeeping Operations and relevant Special Political Missions in a COVID-19 environment. The requirements by host-and transit countries must be observed at all times.
2. These measures are designed to prevent the spread of COVID-19 during rotations of formed units into countries that host United Nations Peacekeeping Operations and relevant Special Political Missions, in Troop or Police Contributing Countries (T/PCCs) and in transit countries, thereby protecting vulnerable communities and populations, while at the same time maintaining the Missions’ uniformed operational capabilities for mandate delivery, protecting the health and safety of United Nations personnel and mitigating reputational risk to the Organization.
3. The measures, initially established for the period 1 July to 31 December 2020, were first extended until 31 March 2021 and subsequently extended every six months with the previous extension up to 31 October 2022.
4. The measures have now once again been revised and will be effective from 1 November 2022 until 30 April 2023, pending significant developments that may warrant a review at an earlier stage. These revised measures will be kept under review based on developments in the COVID-19 situation, including the spread of COVID-19 “variants of concern”, the national vaccination rates in the local community, local health care infrastructure and availability of diagnostic testing capacity and treatments locally, amongst other factors.

Scope

5. This guidance document applies to formed units, individual uniformed personnel (IUP), national support elements and any other national personnel, whose movement in and out of the country hosting the Peacekeeping Operation or relevant Special Political Mission is by

¹ The transitional measures were originally entitled “Transitional Measures for the Partial Resumption of Uniformed Rotations in a COVID-19 Environment”. The title was revised in connection with the February 2021 review.

virtue of belonging to a T/PCC acting under the authority of United Nations mandates. These measures do not apply to government provided corrections personnel.

6. These measures shall be read and strictly followed by all mission personnel and all DPPA, DPO and DOS headquarters personnel who deal with, coordinate, manage or approve rotations of uniformed personnel. Compliance is mandatory.

General Requirements

7. With **effect from 1 November 2022 until 30 April 2023**, rotations of uniformed personnel shall be undertaken based on revised extraordinary transitional measures. Based on the reduction of disease severity and deaths of recent pandemic waves, evidence of shorter incubation period of recent variants, greater access to vaccinations and testing by both local communities and uniformed personnel, the measures for uniformed personnel have been updated accordingly and are as follows.

Pre-Deployment Requirements

8. T/PCCs shall equip uniformed personnel with the required personal protective equipment (e.g., masks), in accordance with the host country and WHO health regulations.
9. All incoming units and uniformed personnel are not required to undergo a 14-day quarantine in their home country prior to deployment to the mission, nor are they required to undergo a 5-day quarantine period upon arrival into the mission area. The decision to quarantine in the home country is optional and decided upon by each troop and police contributor.
10. Documentation of a negative COVID-19 PCR test prior to deployment into a field mission continues to be mandatory for all uniformed personnel. No personnel who have a positive COVID-19 test result conducted within 72 hours prior to departure, or a period specified by the receiving host country, whichever is shorter, shall be permitted to deploy into a mission area. Certificates/written proof of the negative COVID-19 PCR test results must be presented to the mission upon arrival. In the case of formed units, T/PCCs must use the template annexed to this policy while IUP may use their individual test result document.
11. T/PCCs are, strongly encouraged to ensure that all uniformed personnel prior to deployment, should receive the primary series of COVID-19 vaccines, as well as receive booster dose/s wherever possible. This should be administered on the principle of informed consent. The UN will endeavor to support those T/PCCs who do not have access to a sufficient supply of vaccine. T/PCCs are encouraged to consider peacekeepers as priority front-line workers when determining their access to the vaccine. T/PCCs should inform the UN about the vaccination status of incoming uniformed personnel, as well as whether they are interested in their personnel to be included in the UN's vaccination programme in situations where vaccination of T/PCC personnel prior to deployment is not possible.

Post-Arrival Requirements in the Mission Area

12. Upon arrival of new personnel to the mission, the mission medical services should collect documentation of the negative COVID-19 PCR test result from the incoming personnel. For military and/or police formed units or contingents, the declaration form with names of

personnel annexed to this policy should be completed and used for such documentation²X. For individual uniformed personnel, the PCR test result should be submitted. Missions must store records of the declaration form electronically for future reference.

13. It should be noted that as per current World Health Organization recommendations, even individuals who are partially or fully vaccinated against COVID-19, should continue to adhere to all existing COVID-19 precautionary measures, including testing and masking requirements, regardless of their vaccination status. In the event of an outbreak, any cases identified should be isolated immediately and contacts should be quarantined according to local protocols and World Health Organization recommendations.

Outgoing Units and Personnel

14. All outgoing units and personnel will adhere to the quarantine policies as determined by the T/PCCs upon their return to their home countries.
15. A quarantine period is not required before departure from the mission unless stipulated by local authorities. In-mission quarantine as well as Antigen tests for repatriating formed units are not required unless requested by the home country.
16. All outgoing units and personnel shall be 'screened' i.e., checked for signs and symptoms of COVID-19, and if an individual displays COVID-19 symptoms before departure, s/he will be isolated in a nearby medical facility. All those exposed to the individual shall be separated from other elements of the unit and normal protocol following case identification should be followed.
17. If the repatriation flight, vehicle, or ship makes a transit stop in a third country, passengers and crew shall follow the guidance of the transit country.
18. Missions shall make appropriate arrangements for the transportation of the outgoing units and personnel to their designated departure airfield.

Other Requirements

19. Contact tracing. All missions shall establish a strict COVID-19 contact tracing system to identify and isolate all persons who are exposed to a person displaying COVID-19 symptoms and who meet the WHO definition of a "contact". Contact tracing may necessitate testing of such contacts also, especially in congregate settings, in order to promote early identification of cases.
20. Personal Protective Equipment. Incoming units and personnel shall be requested to arrive in the mission area with appropriate personal protective equipment (e.g., masks) in quantities sufficient for the duration of their deployment.
21. Isolation area/facility. A separate area/facility shall be designated for the isolation of any personnel who display COVID-19 symptoms.
22. Quarantine area/facility. A separate area/facility shall be designated for the quarantine of any contacts of positive COVID-19 cases.

² The declaration form and its annex can also be downloaded here, under the section "Uniformed Operations": <https://www.un.org/en/coronavirus/reference-documents-administrators-and-managers>

23. Movement. Rotation flights shall be planned in close coordination between missions, UN Headquarters and T/PCCs in order to optimize the efficiency of rotation flights and maximize the use of seating space, whenever possible.
24. Financial implications. Missions are expected to execute these transitional measures in a manner that minimizes financial impact to the extent possible.
25. Strategic communications. Harmonized and consistent public communications will be critical to ensuring that reputational risks are mitigated, misinformation is countered and that local populations are provided with timely and accurate information on this sensitive issue. Any positive cases shall be treated in a transparent manner from a public information perspective and public communications on rotations shall be coordinated with this Headquarters to ensure consistency of messaging.

Roles and Responsibilities

26. The Head of Mission shall be responsible and accountable for the implementation of these transitional measures in the mission. The Head of Military Component and Head of Police Component shall be responsible and accountable for the strict adherence of their respective military and police personnel to this guidance.
27. The Military and Police Adviser and DOS shall be responsible and accountable for the coordination of rotations planning and implementation with the missions and T/PCCs, including transport, air movements and financial arrangements as appropriate.
28. The Military Adviser and Police Adviser are further responsible for monitoring compliance with this guidance and reporting regularly to the Under Secretaries-General of DPO, DPPA and DOS on compliance, based on reporting from the missions.

Terms and Definitions

29. Quarantine. The separation and restriction of movement of non-sick persons to see if they become sick.
30. Isolation. The separation of sick persons with an infectious disease from people who are not sick.

References

- A. Secretary-General's letter and USGs' DPO, DPPA, DOS code cable on suspension of all rotations, repatriations, and deployments of uniformed personnel (4 April 2020)
- B. UN Manual for Generation and Deployment of Military and Police Units to Peacekeeping Operations
- C. Midterm review of the partial resumption of rotations in a COVID-19 environment, February 2021

Related guidance

- A. [Contingent Deployment Checklist](#)
- B. [Guidance on Isolation Wards, Quarantine Facilities and Configuration of TCC/PCC barracks](#)

UN Secretariat COVID-19 policy and guidance is available on the UN coronavirus website via the following link: [COVID-19 Response | UN Personnel | Policy and Guidance | United Nations](#).

COVID-19 Declaration Form for Formed Units/Contingents: Pre-Deployment RT-PCR Negative Test Results & Vaccination Status

- All uniformed personnel are required to undergo COVID-19 PCR testing no more than 72 hours before departure into the field mission. Only personnel with PCR-negative results during this period are permitted to be deployed into a field mission.
- All uniformed personnel are recommended to be fully vaccinated against COVID-19 including receiving primary series and booster/s, where possible, before deploying. Note that this is a recommended vaccine, and not mandatory.
- These policies are enacted in the interest of public health due to the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic, increase in circulating variants of concern, and the need to reduce the risk of virus transmission, particularly among personnel who live in congregate settings.
- For all military and police formed units/contingents, please complete this declaration form regarding PCR negative status and COVID-19 vaccination status of incoming personnel and submit it to the Mission Medical services upon arrival in the mission. Please use the [spreadsheet](#) to attach the complete list of names of all personnel with their test results & their vaccination status.
- Contact DHMOSH Public Health at dos-dhmosh-public-health@un.org for any questions.

1. **Country of T/PCC submitting this form:**
2. **Name of T/PCC submitting this form:**
3. **Mission & Location of Deployment:**
4. **Arrival Date of Personnel into the Mission: (DD/Month/YYYY)**
5. **COVID-19 Declaration by Contingent Commander or his/her Designate:**

A. I hereby declare that all personnel listed in the attached spreadsheet have undergone RT-PCR testing for COVID-19 no more than 72 hours before departure and have tested negative.

B. I further declare none of these personnel has had/been: -

- Confirmed or suspected of COVID-19 infection.
- In contact with any confirmed or suspect COVID-19 case.
- In contact with any patient with fever or respiratory symptoms.

C. I attach to this declaration a full list of the names of uniformed personnel who were tested as PCR negative within the 72 hours before deployment:

- Total Number of Personnel in the Listed Annex: _____
- Name of Unit/s of Personnel in the Listed Annex: _____

D. I attach to this declaration a full list of the names of uniformed personnel who have been either partially or fully vaccinated against COVID-19 before deployment (Note that COVID-19 vaccination is recommended, but not mandatory)

- Total Number of Personnel in the Listed Annex: _____
- Name of Unit/s of Personnel Listed in the Annex: _____

Details of Contingent Commander or his/her Designate

Rank: _____ Name: _____
Phone: _____ Email: _____
Date of Submission: _____ Signature: _____