

COVID-19 Specifics While Transiting Canada



1. Overview. This document is intended to assist your mission essential travel to or from Alaska during the COVID-19 travel restrictions. It contains information helpful to Army Soldiers, DA Civilians, and their Family members, enroute to or departing from Joint Base Elmendorf-Richardson (JBER) in Anchorage, Fort Wainwright (FWA) in Fairbanks, and Fort Greely (FGA) in Delta Junction. This is not intended as information for your assignment or transition to civilian life. It only has information helpful to crossing Canada as an Arctic Warrior. The underlined blue text, throughout this document, are hotlinks to the mentioned websites. For convenience we've consolidated them on the last page so you can copy and paste into your browser.

2. Before you leave: All PCS travel is currently on-hold/stopped due to the DoD COVID-19 worldwide travel stop movement order. If you are PCSing, you must have a VCSA or delegate approved exception to policy (ETP), routed through your chain of command, to begin travel. Retiring or ETSing Soldiers do not require an ETP at this time. Also, PCS leave is not authorized during the COVID-19 travel restrictions, once approved to depart you must travel directly to your next duty station.

3. Canadian COVID-19 Travel Restrictions: In order to ensure your safety while traveling through Canada you are advised of the following guidelines:

- **Emergency Order.** On 27 March 2020, the Government of Canada put in place an [emergency order](#) under the Quarantine Act requiring quarantine for 14 days for everyone arriving to or crossing into Canada. Its purpose is to slow the spread of COVID-19 in Canada. Failure to comply with this order is an offense under the Quarantine Act. It applies to all travelers arriving in Canada, but currently U.S. Military personnel transiting Canada on official PCS, Retirement, or ETS orders are not subject to the requirement. If you are stopped at a border crossing point and told to go to quarantine, request to elevate your entry/transit request to the [Canada Border Services Agency](#) chain of command for adjudication. Also ensure you maintain contact with your sponsor and the USARAK Chain of Command.

- **Plan ahead.** Due to Canada's quarantine requirements, you will be advised by [Canadian Border Services](#) to only stop for gasoline, essentials and lodging. Be prepared for businesses to be closed due to COVID-19. At a minimum pack enough food to cover your entire trip through Canada, carry enough cash to cover expenses, and be prepared for lodging options to be either unavailable or very limited. You are to proceed through Canada without unnecessary delay, but do not feel compelled to exceed daily mileage limitations. Take regular rest stops and do not drive if you are tired or fatigued!

- **Travel Documents.** Land travel to Alaska crosses Canada and appropriate travel documents are required. As a minimum, you should have ID Cards, passports, and official PCS, ETS, or Retirement orders. In lieu of a passport, family members must have proof of citizenship/permanent residency to cross the Canadian border. The [FAST](#) and [NEXUS](#) programs are designed to expedite your travel through Canada. Membership is \$50 for 5 years, and free for children under the age of 18. As a general rule Canada does not allow persons with DUI's/DWI's and certain criminal convictions to enter their country via POV. For more information contact the [CBSA](#). If children under age 18 are only accompanied by one parent, a letter of consent from the absent parent is required. Pets require current shots and health certificate to cross into and traverse Canada. The [ALCAN Facebook Group](#) can provide current, unofficial, travel conditions along the Alaska Canada Highway.

- **Do not begin travel if you are feeling ill or showing symptoms of COVID-19.** Contact your health care provider immediately, as well as your chain of command. Note that many north-western Canadian areas along the ALCAN are extremely isolated and medical care can be



limited. Do not take the risk if you have any concerns. Instead, contact your sponsor and make arrangements to stay in place or fly instead.

• **Notify your sponsor of your travel plans.** Provide your anticipated date of arrival, and enroute contact info (cell phone numbers, social media addresses, and planned stopping points) and give regular updates. Many cell service providers offer temporary international coverage for transit through Canada at affordable rates.

• **Maintain physical/social distancing and good personal hygiene at all times.** Wash your hands often, and stay at least 6 feet/2 meters away from others during stops.

• **Enroute illness.** If you or a family member become ill or need assistance while traveling through Canada, reach out to the [United States Embassy](https://www.usembassy.gov) (613-699-5335). Additional assistance is available by calling the appropriate DSN phone number below. For commercial calls, substitute area code (907) for DSN area code (317).

JBER	Duty day (317) 384-0338	After hours (317) 384-1906
FWA	Duty day (317) 353-2273	After hours (317) 353-7908
FGA	Duty day (317) 873-3663	After hours (317) 873-3284

You may also contact the 24/7 Tricare International SOS hotline at 1-877-205-2990. Financial assistance can be requested through the American Red Cross at (877) 272-7337.

• **Arrival.** Upon arrival in Alaska, at your next duty station, or at your transition home, all Soldiers and their dependents are ordered to contact public health for possible 14-day self-quarantine. In addition, be prepared to follow all USARAK COVID-19 Command Directives, found at <https://home.army.mil/alaska/>

6. Area Maps:



JBER



Anchorage



FWA



Fairbanks



Alaska Roads

14. Combined URLs: For ease of use, we've consolidated all the URLs for the websites listed above.

USARAK website: <https://home.army.mil/alaska/>

The Milepost: <https://www.themilepost.com/>

U.S. Embassy and Consulates in Canada: <https://ca.usembassy.gov/>

The Canada Border Services Agency: <https://www.cbsa-asfc.gc.ca/menu-eng.html>

Canadian Coronavirus Disease (COVID-19): Travel restrictions and exemptions: <https://www.canada.ca/en/public-health/services/diseases/2019-novel-coronavirus-infection/latest-travel-health-advice.html>

FAST: <https://www.cbp.gov/travel/trusted-traveler-programs/fast>

NEXUS: <https://www.cbp.gov/travel/trusted-traveler-programs/nexus>

Driving the Alaska Canadian Highway (ALCAN) Facebook group: <https://www.facebook.noclick.com/groups/180337849246380/>

Ted Stevens Anchorage International Airport (ANC): <http://www.dot.state.ak.us/anc/>

Fairbanks International Airport (FAI): <http://dot.alaska.gov/faiiap/index.shtml>