



Disaster Emergency Personnel Medical System Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)

- **Question: What is Disaster Emergency Medical Personnel System (DEMPS)?**

Answer: Disaster Emergency Medical Personnel System (DEMPS) is the primary mechanism to request Veterans Health Administration (VHA) personnel who volunteer for physical deployment to support incident response and recovery at Veterans Affairs (VA) medical facilities.

- **Question: How do I enroll?**

Answer: You may register for DEMPS at <https://vhapims.orau.org>. (DEMPS Registration does not work in Internet Explorer. You MUST use Chrome, Firefox, or Edge.) Due to high volume during an emergency response effort, you may access the website 24/7 from your home computer or VA workstation. Contact your facility DEMPS Coordinator/Emergency Manager for assistance and facility specific information.

- **Question: Can part-time or intermittent Veterans Health Administration (VHA) employees voluntarily register to work in the DEMPS?**

Answer: Yes, part-time or intermittent employees interested in working in the DEMPS under a **required full-time basis**, need to register at this link: <https://vhapims.orau.org/>, select volunteer registration and complete the registration process. If part-time or intermittent employees are selected to work in the DEMPS, they must be converted to full-time prior to assignment into the DEMPS. The service chief/manager/supervisor of a selected employee must submit a request for personnel action to their local Human Resources (HR) staff to ensure the selected employee is converted to full-time prior to assignment into the DEMPS.



- **Question: What happens with the full-time status of the former part-time or intermittent employee upon completion of their DEMPS assignment?**

Answer: The employee will be returned to their former part-time or intermittent status. Upon completion of the employee's assignment to the DEMPS, the service chief/manager/supervisor of the employee must submit a request for personnel action to their local HR staff to ensure the selected employee is converted back to their part-time or intermittent status they were in prior to their assignment into the DEMPS.

- **Question: Can VHA Fee Basis providers voluntarily register to work in the DEMPS?**

Answer: Yes, Fee Basis providers interested in working in the DEMPS under a **required full-time basis**, need to register at this link: <https://vhapims.orau.org/>, select volunteer registration and complete the registration process. If Fee Basis providers are selected to work in the DEMPS, they must be appointed to temporary, full-time status (not to exceed (NTE) the duration of the assignment into the DEMPS). The service chief/manager/supervisor of the employee must submit a request for personnel action to their local HR staff to ensure the Fee Basis provider is appointed temporary, full-time (NTE the duration of the assignment into the DEMPS) prior to the employee's assignment into the DEMPS.

- **Question: What happens with the temporary, full-time appointment status of the former Fee Basis provider upon completion of their DEMPS assignment?**

Answer: The employee will complete the temporary, full-time appointment and that appointment will be terminated. They will continue their Fee Basis provider



status upon completion of the temporary, full-time appointment. The service chief/manager/supervisor of the employee must submit a request for personnel action to their local HR staff to ensure a termination (completion of temporary, full-time appointment) personnel action is processed on the temporary, full-time appointment and ensure the Fee Basis provider status continues.

- **Question: Can I enroll to assist with Telehealth?**

Answer: Yes, employees can register on the DEMPS website as “Interested in Telehealth”. This option does not require a health screening, or a government Smart Pay 3 travel card.

- **Question: What do I need to deploy?**

Answer: You will need your supervisor’s approval, a Smart Pay 3 government issued travel card, influenza vaccination and medically cleared to wear a N95 mask.

- **Question: What do I do if I don’t have a government travel card?**

Answer: Your local travel office will assist you in the process to obtain one.

- **Question: What do I do if I have an expired VA Travel Card or I left it at home?**

Answer: Contact your local travel office.

- **Question: How long is the deployment?**

Answer: A standard deployment is 14 days in duration. There may be opportunities for you to extend the deployment if the need exists with your supervisor’s approve.



- **Question: How will I get there?**

Answer: Your travel will be prepared by Financial Services Center (FSC). You will not need to book your own travel.

- **Question: How will I be assigned?**

Answer: You will be assigned based on your current skillset, licensure and the requirements of the receiving facility.

- **Question: Will I still get paid?**

Answer: Yes, timekeeping is accomplished at the receiving facility and FSC VATAS will post all timecards. All current pay authorities and entitlements will remain in effect, no change.

- **Question: After I register in DEMPS/LEAF what is the next step?**

Answer: The supervisor approves the registration. The facility DEMPS Coordinator contacts you once you are approved.

- **Question: Is there proper PPE at the facility?**

Answer: The VHA Office of Emergency Management is working in tandem with all VISN Network Directors and Central Office and tracking levels of PPE at each facility and shipping PPE out to needed areas.

- **Question: If I get sick while deployed, who do I go to?**

Answer: For work related illness and unprotected exposure, report to the facility Occupational Health. If non-work related, please contact your personal provider.



- **Question:** Do I have to self-quarantine when I return to my station? If my facility won't allow me to return to work since I was in a "hot zone", must I take leave?

Answer: The VHA has been following CDC Guidance

<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/hcp/guidance-risk-assessment-hcp.html>

Contact your Occupational Health office for further guidance. If you do not work at a Medical Center, contact VHAWMCHRCOV19@va.gov