



DC Metro Red Line Closure

Temporary Expanded Telework

Expanded Use of Telework Due to Impacts of Metro Closure on NIH Bethesda Campus & DC Metro Area

WHAT DOES THIS MEAN?

The Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Authority (WMATA) has announced the temporary closure of several stations along the Red Line, including the Medical Center station located adjacent to the NIH Gateway Center on the Bethesda, Maryland campus. This station serves NIH employees, visitors, and staff affiliated with the Walter Reed National Military Medical Center.

The closure and associated construction activities are expected to create significant commuting disruptions throughout the DC metropolitan area. Impacts will extend beyond regular Metro riders, as commuters shift to personal vehicles, rideshare services, shuttle systems, and alternate public transportation options — increasing congestion across regional roadways and transit networks.

To support operational continuity, workforce productivity, and mission delivery during this disruption, the HHS Secretary is temporarily authorizing expanded telework flexibility of up to 50% telework for eligible NIH employees who are required to work onsite in the DC metropolitan area.

This temporary authorization is currently projected to remain in effect from **July 6 through September 6, 2026**, and will expire upon completion of the WMATA construction project. This hybrid approach is intended to help minimize commuting delays, reduce parking congestion, and ensure continued support of NIH's mission to advance scientific discovery and public service without interruption.

WHO DOES THIS APPLY TO?

This temporary flexibility applies to employees who report onsite to NIH facilities within the DC metropolitan area. This authorization does not apply to employees with duty stations in Frederick and Baltimore.

This exception applies only to telework-eligible employees with an active HHS Form 990-3 Telework Agreement and remains subject to supervisory approval.

HOW SHOULD TELEWORK BE USED AND RECORDED?

Telework under this authority may not exceed **50% of time in duty status during each pay period** and will **not count toward the 240-hour calendar year ad hoc telework cap**. Individual

supervisors should consider the needs of the organization and stagger telework in a way that allows for consistent onsite coverage.

We anticipate the use of general ad hoc/situational telework (NTE 240 hours) will be **extremely** limited and based on unique circumstances given the extensive amount of telework allocated during this project.

Telework used under this temporary authority must be recorded in ITAS as:

“Management Authorized Telework – metro closure. Does not count towards ad-hoc cap.”

WHAT OPTIONS ARE AVAILABLE FOR COMMUTING AND PARKING?

Employees are expected to continue reporting onsite as required. The NIH Division of Amenities and Transportation Services (DATS) provides a variety of resources to support employee commuting and campus access, including information on carpools and vanpools, parking availability, and construction updates. In addition, DATS offers shuttle services that provide safe, reliable transportation throughout the NIH campus and to several locations across the Washington, DC metropolitan area.

WHERE CAN I FIND MORE INFORMATION?

- For the latest updates on construction schedules and service impacts, please visit [WMATA](#)
- For more information on telework eligibility, please contact your [IC Workplace Flexibilities Liaison](#).
- For more information on parking, please contact the [NIH Parking Office](#).