



Federal Aviation Administration

Memorandum

Date: September 8, 2020

To: AAM-200, AMCD, Regional Flight Surgeons, HIMS AMEs

From: Penny M. Giovanetti, D.O. Director, Medical Specialties Division,
AAM-200

Subject: Guidance for HIMS Airmen on Furlough/Extended Leave from the
Airlines

Ideally, furloughed pilots would continue their recovery programs unchanged. FAA recognizes the stress of being furloughed both increases the risk of relapse and may financially limit recovery activities. The following guidance is provided to help airmen make decisions which are best for them.

Option 1 – Pilots who choose to keep their Class 1 or 2 medical certificate current, must follow all the provisions in their existing authorization letter, except those which depend on the airline, such as Chief Pilot letter, group meetings, etc. Pilots who secure other commercial flying employment should work with their HIMS AME to determine what employer documentation is reasonable to obtain. New time limited certificates and authorization letters should be issued as usual.

Option 2 – Pilots who allow their time limited medical certificate to expire should continue with participation in peer support groups e.g. AA, Birds, and continue to work with their sponsor. Annual visits with HIMS AME of record is encouraged. Special issuance authorizations will not be withdrawn. Those pilots may reenter the HIMS program by reengaging with their HIMS AME of record who will assess their recovery, reinstitute testing, request additional evaluations, if indicated, and recommend to AMCD the most appropriate phase of reinstatement. In order to expedite return to flying, the HIMS AME may issue a new 6-month time limited certificate once he/she determines the pilot is in satisfactory recovery and is otherwise qualified. The HIMS AME must then submit appropriate documentation to AMCD for concurrence and a new authorization letter.