

Furlough FAQs

NASA Stennis and NASA Shared Services Center

The following information is intended to provide center-specific information and guidance to employees of NASA Stennis and the NASA Shared Services Center. Guidance and information will be updated as needed.

Additional information and agency guidance can be found at www.nasa.gov/shutdown.

For further questions related to your status or individual work projects, contact your supervisor.

FAQs

Where can I find information about the center's operating status? How can I get updates?

You can find the center's current operating status and the latest information at [NASA Shutdown Information - NASA](#) or [SSC/NSSC - NASA](#).

Employees should also monitor news to keep up to date with the status of the shutdown. Additional information can be found at [OPM Home - OPM.gov](#).

What facilities and services are available for excepted employees and contractors?

Stennis Space Center

- NASA Stennis is open.
- Both gates are operational.

Health and Safety

- NASA Stennis Medical Center is open.
- Protective Services onsite are fully operational.
- The Wellness Center is open.
- Employee Assistance Program Coordinator Porter Pryor is available at 228-363 4910 for NASA Stennis/NSSC employees.
- For urgent mental health counseling outside of normal business hours, call NASA's after-hours service at 1-888-964-3032. For emergencies, call 911.

Food

- Peck's in building 1100 is open.
- Food trucks are open and will continue to show up based on support/demand
- PJ's in building 1100 is open.

- Subway in building 1100 is open.

Other

- NEX is open.
- SSC Exchange office is open.

Where can I get help during the furlough if I need financial support, food, or other assistance?

During a government shutdown, many external organizations offer support to federal employees. This can include financial relief, food assistance, and special discounts. Check with your bank or credit union, local nonprofits, churches, and community support groups. Stay informed by following news outlets and social media for updates on available programs and resources.

How much advance notice will employees have to return to the office?

You will be expected to report for duty on your next regularly scheduled workday after an FY2026 appropriation or a continuing resolution is approved.

What is the guidance on filing for unemployment?

Instructions for unemployment compensation under a government furlough can be found on the agency's page [here](#).

(Note: Once an employee receives backpay, unemployment benefits must be repaid to the state).

Can I use my NASA device?

Yes, under certain conditions and depending on your status. Specific rules govern the use of government IT during a shutdown. Please familiarize yourself with this guidance at [NASA FAQ](#) (Page 54) and [Shutdown Guide for Employees](#) (Page 26).

Non-excepted employees may only use their government-issued IT devices for orderly shutdown/furlough activities and to periodically check for shutdown/furlough-related updates and communications. Government-issued IT devices should not be used for any other non-excepted work activities or for personal use.

Will there be supervisor/employee tag-ups during furlough?

Regardless of status, supervisors should check in with employees regularly.

Can employees do other external work/jobs while furloughed?

NASA Stennis/NSSC employees with ethics/outside activity questions may submit them to NASA Stennis/NSSC Office of General Counsel [here](#).

Can excepted employees telework?

Overall, excepted employees should discuss their duty status with their supervisor.

What is the guidance for paying my travel card balance during furlough?

- US Bank understands that accounts could become past due until budgetary issues are resolved.
- Accounts will not be reported to any credit monitoring services due to non-payment during the lapse in appropriations.
- US Bank has confirmed that no late fees or finance charges will be charged against delinquent cardholder accounts. However, travel card statements and/or delinquency notices will continue to be sent by US Bank, per their normal process.
- Once the budget is approved and travel payments resume, employees are expected to bring past due accounts up to date expeditiously.

What is the guidance for OSTEM interns?

Mentors and interns have received guidance on what to do in the event of a government shutdown. The agency Internships team will continue to provide guidance as needed. For answers to questions about the Spring 2026 Session, reference the [Spring 2026 Internships FAQ](#) located on the Mentor SharePoint.

How will contractors receive guidance?

Contractor Officer Representatives (COR) will work with contract managers to communicate necessary information. Stay in contact with your contract management.