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**The Post-9/11 GI Bill, U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs**

9 hrs ·

As many of you know, schools across the country are in the process of, or have already moved from in-person courses to online courses in the interest of public health due to COVID-19 concerns. For GI Bill students, this change in training modality raises questions and concerns about the impact to your GI Bill benefits and importantly, your housing allowances.

What does this mean to me?

The answer depends on the type of action taken by the school, the timing of the action, and how the current program is approved.

- If your school temporarily closes because of an emergency situation, VA may continue benefit payments (including the Monthly Housing Allowance under the Post-9/11 GI Bill) for up to 4 weeks during a 12-month period.
- If your school remains open (virtually, rather than physically), and you are now taking online classes, then your benefit payments will be impacted as follows:
  - o If the change from training in-residence to online classes happens during the term, and your program has been approved by the State Approving Agency for delivery through an online modality, your benefit payments will remain the same for the rest of the term.
  - o For any future terms that are solely online, your housing allowance will be reduced to one-half of the national average of DoD's Basic Allowance for Housing rates for an E-5 with dependents.
  - o The most important thing you need to know is if your program has not been approved by the State Approving Agency for an online modality, all of your education benefit payments will stop when you begin your training online.

We understand Congress is looking to address this issue.

If you have questions about your specific circumstance, please contact the Education Call Center at: 1-888-442-4551 between 8 AM and 7 PM Eastern Time, Monday-Friday.

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