



Department of Health

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From: New York State Department of Health

INTERIM GUIDANCE FOR PROFESSIONAL SPORTS TEAMS TRAVELING BETWEEN STATES WITH SIGNIFICANT COMMUNITY SPREAD OF COVID-19 AND NEW YORK STATE

Purpose

This advisory explains how individuals traveling from states with significant community spread of COVID-19 to New York State (NYS) who are associated with a professional sports team or league can do so safely and in accordance with the travel advisory.

Background

In response to increased rates of COVID-19 transmission in certain states within the United States, and to protect New York's successful containment of COVID-19, the State has joined with New Jersey and Connecticut in jointly issuing a travel advisory for anyone returning from travel to states that have a significant degree of community-wide spread of COVID-19.

In accordance with Executive Order 205 issued by Governor Cuomo, the Department of Health (DOH) [travel advisory](#) requires all travelers coming from states with significant rates of transmission of COVID-19 (hereinafter "designated state") to quarantine for a 14-day period from the time of their last contact within such state(s).

Professional Sports Teams

Professional sports teams, both based in New York State (NYS) and playing sports in NYS, are expected to abide by the guidance set forth in [INTERIM GUIDANCE FOR PROFESSIONAL SPORTS TRAINING FACILITIES DURING THE COVID-19 PUBLIC HEALTH EMERGENCY](#), [INTERIM GUIDANCE FOR PROFESSIONAL SPORTS COMPETITIONS WITH NO FANS DURING THE COVID-19 PUBLIC HEALTH EMERGENCY](#), and any standards set forth in the operations manual for each league provided they are consistent with New York State guidance.

Traveling to New York State for Professional Sports Activity

Individuals from a state with significant rates of transmission of COVID-19 to New York State for a professional sports activity (e.g., player, coach, training staff, support staff, league staff) may travel to the extent necessary to participate in the professional sports activity, but must otherwise remain quarantined, and avoid all public places and settings, while in New York State, consistent with the Interim [Guidance](#) for Quarantine Restrictions on Travelers Arriving in New York State Following Out of State Travel.



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Any player, coach, or staff otherwise associated with the professional sports team or league must:

- Seek diagnostic testing for COVID-19 as soon as possible upon arrival (within 24 hours) to ensure they are not positive.
- Monitor themselves for a fever, or any other symptoms of COVID-19, wear a face covering when in public, maintain social distancing, clean and disinfect workspaces, equipment, and playing areas for a minimum of 14 days.
- Avoid extended periods in public, contact with strangers or anyone not associated with the team or league, and large congregate settings, except for the competitive activity for which they are traveling for a period of at least 14 days.

Players, coaches, and any team or league staff coming to New York from a designated state must always quarantine in single rooms at their accommodations/lodging while in New York, except for activities related to team practice, meetings, and competition.

Teams and leagues must limit the number of staff traveling to New York to only essential personnel required to allow the team to compete while maintaining all applicable health and safety standards.

This document applies to any professional athletic activity such as: baseball, basketball, professional vehicle racing (e.g, NASCAR), tennis, etc. This does not apply to amateur or collegiate activities.

For any professional sports team which is traveling back to New York from a state for which there is a travel advisory, the same precautions should be taken.

- Seek diagnostic testing for COVID-19 as soon as possible upon arrival (within 24 hours) to ensure they are not positive.
- Monitor themselves for a fever, or any other symptoms of COVID-19, wear a face covering when in public, maintain social distancing, clean and disinfect workspaces, equipment, and playing areas for a minimum of 14 days.
- Avoid extended periods in public, contact with strangers or anyone not associated with the team or league, and large congregate settings for the period of the quarantine, or the length of time the individual is in the State if shorter than 14 days.

For more information, please contact the NYS COVID-19 Hotline at 1-888-364-3065 or consult the resources below.

Additional Resources

- [DOH COVID-19 Webpage](#)
- [CDC COVID-19 Webpage](#)