



Date: June 28, 2020

From: New York State Department of Health

INTERIM GUIDANCE FOR INDIVIDUALS TRAVELING FROM STATES WITH SIGNIFICANT COMMUNITY SPREAD OF COVID-19 TO NEW YORK STATE FOR MEDICAL TREATMENT

Purpose

This advisory explains the procedures that individuals and their companions or support persons must follow when traveling from states with significant community spread of COVID-19 to New York State for medical treatment, in order to 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 to quarantine for a 14-day period from the last day they were in such state.

Traveling to New York State for Health Care Procedures and Appointments

Individuals and their companions or support persons from a state with significant rates of transmission of COVID-19 to New York State for a medical procedure, elective procedure, or other appointment that cannot be postponed may travel to the extent necessary to receive such treatment, but must otherwise remain quarantined, and avoid all public places and settings, while in New York State. Any procedure or appointment that proceeds should be completed with facility staff wearing personal protective equipment (PPE) that is appropriate for a patient who was exposed through close contact to an individual with COVID-19. For the patient, the length of the 14-day quarantine does not change unless such patient is returning home sooner, and [all requirements of quarantine](#) apply when the individual is not at the medical facility at which the procedure or appointment is taking place.

Individuals entering New York State for a medical procedure or elective surgery must also abide by the conditions set forth in the DOH [Updated Guidance for Resumption of Non-Essential Elective Surgeries](#) and [Non-Urgent Procedures in Hospitals, Ambulatory Surgery Centers, Office Based Surgery Practices and Diagnostic and Treatment Centers](#), issued June 14, 2020, including the requirement to be diagnostically tested for COVID-19 using a molecular assay for detection of SARS-CoV-2 RNA within 5 days of the elective surgery or procedure.

Support persons, family members and companions must adhere to the guidelines and conditions set forth in the [DOH Health Advisory: COVID-19 Updated Guidance for Hospital Operators Regarding Visitation](#) and the [DOH Informational Message: COVID-19 Hospital Visitation Program](#).

Additionally, individuals must abide by the following conditions:

- If the procedure or elective surgery is more than 5 days from the arrival of the individual to New York State, the individual should seek diagnostic testing for COVID-19 as soon as possible upon arrival (within 24 hours) to ensure they are not positive.
- Individuals and their companions or support persons should monitor temperature and signs of symptoms, wear a face covering when in transit or public, and maintain social distancing for a minimum of 14 days after entering New York State.
- Individuals and their companions and support persons, to the extent possible and except for those interactions related to the medical procedure or elective surgery, are required to avoid extended periods in public, contact with strangers, 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](#)