



# Health Alert



## ***CDPH Travel Order Exceptions Update*** **November 18, 2020**

### **Action Items and Summary**

1. Healthcare employers should discourage travel and personal social or family gatherings where unrelated individuals, or people who are not immediate close household contacts of each other, are gathering indoors and in close contact with one another.
2. In some situations, healthcare workers may need to travel out of state for urgent personal reasons. A new exception is being added to the CDPH travel order, for healthcare workers meeting specified conditions, in order to help maintain health care system staffing capacity. For further details, please see section (d) below.

### **Exceptions to Quarantine Requirements**

For purposes of the Travel Order “essential workers” are not subject to the mandatory self-quarantine under the following circumstances:

- (a) If a non-resident of Chicago, is traveling from a designated state to Chicago for the primary purpose of carrying out their primary work in Chicago, and who needs to be physically present in Chicago in order to carry out that primary work, with identification issued by their employer, or
- (b) If a resident of Chicago, is returning from a designated state, and was in the designated state for the primary purpose of carrying out their primary work in that state, and who needed to be physically present in that state in order to carry out that primary work, with identification issued by their employer
- (c) Essential workers<sup>[1]</sup> traveling for work purposes are subject to the following requirements
  1. Essential workers should avoid any non-essential interactions until the normally recommended quarantine period has ended. They must limit their activities to work-related activities and functions that directly support their work-related activities and avoid public spaces as much as possible.
  2. Essential workers should monitor temperature and signs of symptoms, wear a face covering when in public, maintain social distance, and clean and disinfect workspaces.
  3. Essential workers are required, to the extent possible, to avoid extended periods in public, contact with strangers, and large congregate settings.
- (d) A healthcare worker traveling for important personal/family reasons (e.g., to check on or provide care for an elderly parent who lives alone) are not subject to mandatory quarantine after

returning from out of state travel, if the following conditions are met:

1. The healthcare worker should avoid any non-essential interactions until the normally recommended quarantine period has ended. They must limit their activities to work-related activities and functions that directly support their work-related activities and avoid public spaces as much as possible.
2. The healthcare worker should monitor temperature and signs of symptoms, wear a face covering when in public, maintain social distance, and clean and disinfect workspaces.
3. The healthcare worker is required, to the extent possible, to avoid extended periods in public, contact with strangers, and large congregate settings.
4. In addition, the following is required:
  - The travel is approved by the employer
  - The employer determines that the employee is not a household contact to a confirmed case of COVID-19;
  - The employer deems the employee is essential to the functioning of the business and substantial impact would be experienced if the employee does not work in person;
  - The employer determines the employee cannot conduct essential functions remotely and there is no readily available replacement personnel for the employee;
  - The employer conducts a risk assessment to determine whether or not SARS-CoV-2 testing should be performed based on travel/exposure history, and the employee is tested as indicated based on the risk assessment.

Exceptions to the Order for personal travel will also be permitted for travel for medical care and parental shared custody. The Commissioner of Health may additionally grant an exemption based upon an organization's or business' testing and other control policies or in extraordinary circumstances, which warrant an exception from mandatory quarantine, subject to the terms and conditions applied to essential workers or terms and conditions otherwise imposed by the Commissioner in the interest of public health.

---

<sup>[1]</sup> An “essential worker” is a person who works in [critical infrastructure as designated by the Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency](#). “Essential worker” includes any state, local, and federal officials and employees traveling in their official capacities on government business, including military service.

---

Check back frequently for updated Chicago data and maps related to the information presented here:

**[COVID Dashboard](#) / [Daily Status Report](#)**