



# Health Alert



City of Chicago  
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## ***Travel Order Frequently Asked Questions Related to Healthcare Personnel***

**July 7, 2020**

Last week, CDPH issued Public Health Order 2020-10, which ordered self-quarantine for travelers coming to Chicago from COVID-19 high burden states. The alert below provides guidance specific to health care workers.

### **What are the guidelines for Healthcare workers who travel to an identified state for personal reasons?**

It is recommended that healthcare workers who traveled for personal reasons are quarantined for 14 days from the date of return. However, a healthcare system can implement a testing and monitoring program as defined below. If a healthcare worker returns from travel for personal reasons from a state with an identified high burden, PCR based testing can be performed on days 5-7 after returning. If the test is negative, then the healthcare worker can return to work on day 8. The following criteria must be met, however:

1. The returning traveler must not have had close prolonged contact with a known, confirmed case of COVID-19
2. The returning traveler has no known symptoms
3. Universal precautions are in place while at work
4. The healthcare system offers the test, and monitors the returning traveler's symptoms. If any symptoms occur, the Healthcare worker must stop working, and be re-tested.

### **What are the guidelines for healthcare workers who are traveling for essential work?**

For purposes of the Order and this FAQ, "essential workers" are not subject to the mandatory self-quarantine if they are traveling for work purposes 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 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 primary work in that state, and who needed to be physically present in that state in order to carry out that primary work.

Essential workers traveling for work purposes are subject to the following requirements:

- Essential workers should avoid any non-essential interactions until the 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.
- Essential workers should monitor temperature and signs of symptoms, wear a face covering when in public, maintain social distance, and clean and disinfect workspaces.
- Essential workers are required, to the extent possible, to avoid extended periods in public, contact with strangers, and large congregate settings.

**What if a healthcare worker lives in a state identified as a high burden state?**

Healthcare workers are considered exempt if traveling to Chicago for work. Thus, they would be exempt from the quarantine order.

**What if a healthcare worker lives in a Chicago suburb and travels to a high burden state?**

If travel is for personal reasons, the order is still applicable. If the travel is for essential work, they are considered exempt from the order.

**How will states be designated under the Order?**

A state will be designated if it has a case rate greater than 15 new COVID-19 cases per 100,000 resident population, per day, over a 7-day rolling average.

**How and when will the list be updated?**

The list of states will be reviewed and amended every Tuesday, starting July 14, 2020, with the order effective for those states the following Friday (three days later).

**Additional guidance on the travel order, including the list of states, can be found at:**

<https://www.chicago.gov/city/en/sites/covid-19/home/emergency-travel-order.html>