



Corrections and Community Supervision

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Acting Commissioner

MEMORANDUM

TO: Superintendents, Deputy Superintendents
FHSDs, RMDs, NAs

FROM: John Morley, MD Deputy Commissioner & CMO

DATE: March 18, 2021

SUBJECT: NYS Department of Health Updates –

- Healthcare Personnel Return to Work following COVID19 exposure
- Quarantine Restrictions on Travelers Arriving in NY from out-of-state

On March 10, 2021, the New York State Department of Health (NYS DOH) issued guidance documents on two topics relevant to DOCCS:

- *Personnel in Healthcare and Other Direct Care Settings to Return to Work Following COVID-19 Exposure – Including Quarantine and Furlough Requirements for Different Health care Settings.*
- *Interim Guidance for Quarantine Restrictions on Travelers Arriving in New York State Following Out of State Travel.*

As you are aware, NYS DOCCS COVID-19 related policies are based on NYS DOH guidance. In view of this, the following changes are effective immediately.

- **Healthcare staff** exposed to COVID-19 must quarantine for 10 days, and if they are asymptomatic for at least the last 3 days, they can return to work. Testing for COVID-19 is not required. They must, however, continue to monitor temperature and check for symptoms up to day 14; and they must be reminded to continue all practices used to minimize risk - social distancing, wearing a mask and hand hygiene. If any symptoms develop, they must immediately self-isolate.
- **Healthcare staff** who have been **vaccinated** and are between 2 weeks after their first shot and 3 months after full vaccination (2 weeks after the final shot) do not need to quarantine or furlough after exposure, provided they are asymptomatic.

- **Travelers** arriving in NY from a non-contiguous state but within the U.S., can be identified as essential and return to work but must be tested for COVID19 within 24 hours of arrival back in NY and again on the fourth day after their return.
- **Domestic Travelers** to NY may be exempt from quarantine if they are fully **vaccinated** (2 weeks from their final dose of vaccine) and less than 3 months after being fully vaccinated and remain asymptomatic. They are also exempt if they have received a formal, laboratory confirmed diagnosis of COVID19 within 3 months of symptom onset or the date of the positive test result.
- **International Travelers** must show proof of a negative test done no more than 3 days prior to departure in order to board a plane or ship to the US. They must either quarantine for 7 days and test on the 3rd to 5th day after arrival or must quarantine for 10 days without COVID-19 testing, **regardless of prior illness or vaccine status**.

Health Care Workers who have previously been diagnosed with laboratory confirmed COVID-19 and have recovered and are asymptomatic, are not required to retest or quarantine within 3 months after the date of symptom onset from the initial COVID-19 infection or the date of the first positive diagnostic test, if they were asymptomatic during the illness.

It is important to be aware that all individuals exposed to COVID-19 or returning from travel, regardless of quarantine status must continue to monitor for symptoms through day 14. At all times we must adhere to the recommended non-pharmaceutical interventions – social distancing, hand hygiene and masks. If an individual develops ANY symptoms, he or she must immediately self-isolate.