**Holiday Travel Guidance**

As the holiday travel season approaches, we would like to remind families about the New York State travel advisory and how it can impact your child’s ability to attend school.  According to the governor’s November 3rd press conference, non-essential travel is strongly discouraged, but if you must travel, the following guidelines apply, and you must register your travel using the form found at the link below. Failure to comply with the travel advisory could result in a mandatory quarantine order and a fine of up to $10,000.

<https://coronavirus.health.ny.gov/covid-19-travel-advisory#traveler-health-form>

**Scenario One:**

**Your family travels to a State not bordering New York State**

**(Any state other than Massachusetts, Connecticut, New Jersey, Pennsylvania, and Vermont)**

The New York State Department of Health requires anyone traveling out of the State with plans to return to NYS to complete a Traveler Health Form. It does not matter how your family travels (airplane, car, bus, train etc.)

If your family does not complete the Traveler Health Form, but it is discovered that your child traveled, you will be contacted by the school and asked to pick up your child from school as soon as possible. Your child will be removed from their class and isolated until you arrive and pick him/her up. The local health department will be notified for follow up communications with you about your quarantine requirements.

* To avoid a mandatory 14-day quarantine, each traveler must show two negative COVID-19 tests.
* The first test must be taken 1-3 days prior to entering New York.
* Travelers must then quarantine for three days and take a second test on the 4th day after returning to New York. Children cannot attend in-person classes during their quarantine period.
* Travelers must continue to quarantine until the results of the second test are available.
* If both tests are negative, travelers can then resume normal activities.
* If either test is positive, you must consult with your local health department.
* Anyone who travels and does not get tested for COVID-19 must quarantine at home for 14 days.
* **Your child will not be allowed to attend classes until/unless both tests come back negative. Proof of negative tests must be provided to school nurse before returning to school.**

**Scenario Two:**

**Your family hosts guests from another state not bordering New York State**

**(Any state other than Massachusetts, Connecticut, New Jersey, Pennsylvania, and Vermont)**

* Your guests must complete the NYS Traveler Health Form before traveling.
* If your guests test for COVID-19 ***1-3 days*** ***prior*** to their arrival in New York State and it is negative and test for COVID-19 a second time, ***4 days*** ***after*** their arrival in New York State and have a second negative result, they will be released from quarantine.
* If a guest receives a positive COVID-19 test, the sick individual must be isolated from the rest of your family. In addition, your child and all other members of your family will be required to quarantine for 14 days. It is not possible to reduce this quarantine period by having a COVID-19 test. Children cannot attend in-person classes during their quarantine period.
* Once travelers complete the health form, they will receive a call from representatives of the Local County Public Health Services and instructed to check their temperatures, monitor symptoms\*, and respond to follow up daily for the length of their quarantine.
* ***If your guests do not get a COVID-19 test 1-3 days prior to entering New York, they will need to quarantine for two weeks or the duration of their stay, whichever is shorter.***

If your family is hosting guests who are in quarantine, the guests should minimize their interactions with family until they are released from quarantine. They should wear a mask at all times when interacting with family *and* strive to maintain a 6-foot distance from others. Your guests should also have a separate bathroom and bedroom to use whenever possible.  Guests should not go shopping or leave the residence they are staying at for the duration of their stay or quarantine, whichever is shorter. Extra time should be spent cleaning and disinfecting commonly touched surfaces (doorknobs, faucets, handrails etc.).

During the time that you are hosting guests who are in quarantine, your child will be allowed to attend in-person and virtual classes, but monitoring for COVID-19 symptoms is a must. If one of your guests becomes ill and gets tested for COVID-19 the results of the test could change your child’s ability to attend in-person classes.

**Scenario Three:**

**You/your child/your guests travel within New York State/Bordering states**

**(Travel within New York, Massachusetts, Connecticut, New Jersey, Pennsylvania, and Vermont)**

The New York State travel advisory does not apply to travel within New York State or those states that share a border with New York. However, bringing together family from different parts of the Region presents challenges. It is important to monitor different parts of the region for potential COVID-19 hotspots before traveling or having guests travel to you.

* Please ask guests not to come if they are feeling ill or are traveling from a COVID-19 hotspot.
* Require family and guests to monitor themselves daily for COVID-19 symptoms\*. If symptoms begin, have your guests isolate themselves until they leave or get tested for COVID-19.
* If a guest or family member receives a positive COVID-19 test, anyone exposed will be required to quarantine for 14 days regardless of a negative COVID-19 test.
* Upon completion of your quarantine, you will be provided with a return to school/work letter stating your child has completed the required quarantine.

*Note: These guidelines are subject to change by the Government of New York.*

**\* Symptoms of COVID-19:**

* Fever over 100.4F (or subjective fever, if you don’t have a thermometer available)
* Cough
* Shortness of breath
* Chills
* Headache
* Muscle aches
* Abdominal pain
* Vomiting
* Diarrhea
* Sore throat
* Dehydration
* Fatigue
* Chest tightness
* Wheezing
* Runny nose
* Loss of taste
* Loss of smell