

Suffolk County Community College

College Brief

NO. 32 November 12, 2020

TO: The College Community

FROM: Louis Petrizzo, Interim President

SUBJECT: Changes to NYS COVID-19 Travel Advisory and Quarantine Restrictions Based Upon Out-of-State and International Travel

As outlined previously in College Brief No. 144, issued on July 1, 2020, New York State Governor Andrew M. Cuomo and the NYS Department of Health (NYSDOH) previously issued a COVID-19 Travel Advisory, which enacted a 14-day quarantine requirement for any person entering New York State from designated states or territories, as part of New York's effort to prevent the spread of COVID-19. Our daily health screening questionnaires for employees and students coming to campus screens for any such travel and directs individuals to complete the required NYS online traveler health form to ensure the appropriate quarantine requirement is completed.

Last week, Governor Cuomo and the NYSDOH announced new guidelines which change the way the COVID-19 Travel Advisory and required quarantine periods are being administered.

Based on current guidelines:

- Travelers from states that are contiguous with New York (i.e., New Jersey, Connecticut, Massachusetts, Pennsylvania, and Vermont) are exempt from the travel advisory; however, travelers must continue to fill out the [NYS online traveler health form](#).
- All travelers entering New York from a state that is not a contiguous state (i.e., all states *other than* NJ, CT, MA, PA, and VT) or from a country with a CDC Level 2 or Level 3 travel warning, must quarantine for a period of 14 days, consistent with NYSDOH regulations for quarantine, unless they meet the criteria to “test out” of the 14-day quarantine period below.

Criteria for “Test Out” of the 14-Day Quarantine for Travel

For any traveler to New York State from a noncontiguous state, US territory or CDC Level 2 or Level 3 country, the new guidelines for travelers to test-out of the mandatory 14-day quarantine are below:

- For travelers who were out-of-state for more than 24 hours:
 - Travelers must obtain a test within three days of departure, prior to arrival in New York.
 - The traveler must, upon arrival in New York, quarantine for three days.
 - On day 4 of their quarantine, the traveler must obtain another COVID test. If both tests comes back negative, the traveler may exit quarantine early upon receipt of

the second negative diagnostic test.

- For travelers who were out-of-state for less than 24 hours:
 - The traveler does not need a test prior to their departure from the other state, and does not need to quarantine upon arrival in New York State.
 - However, the traveler must fill out our traveler form upon entry into New York State, and take a COVID diagnostic test 4 days after their arrival in New York.

Local health departments will validate tests, if necessary, and if a test comes back positive, will issue isolation orders and initiate contact tracing. All travelers must continue to fill out our traveler form upon arrival into New York State to contribute to New York State's robust contact tracing program. The travel guidelines require all New Yorkers, as well as those visiting from out-of-state, to take personal responsibility for compliance in the best interest of public health and safety. [More information can be found here.](#)

Travel Planning

As a reminder, on June 26, 2020, Governor Cuomo issued [Executive Order 202.45](#), which provides that any employees who travel voluntarily to any of the designated states after June 25, 2020, and who are subject to a mandatory or precautionary order of quarantine as the result of such travel, shall not be eligible for the NYS COVID-19 sick leave benefits enacted by Chapter 25 of the Laws of 2020 (which provides certain paid leave benefits to eligible employees subject to a mandatory or precautionary order of isolation or quarantine due to COVID-19). Pursuant to that law, employees are also not eligible for the NYS COVID-19 sick leave benefits if they are subject to a mandatory or precautionary order of quarantine because they returned to the United States after traveling to a country for which the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) has a Level 2 or Level 3 travel health notice.

As a result, employees should be aware that voluntary travel to any of these countries and any of the states for which the NYS DOH has issued a travel advisory under Executive Order 205 could result in loss of pay during the required quarantine, if the employee does not have available paid leave accruals.

The most up-to-date information on the NYS COVID-19 travel advisory can be found on the [NYS DOH website](#). Most countries currently remain subject to a Level 2 or Level 3 travel warning from the CDC against non-essential travel, as outlined on the [CDC website](#). Employees planning to travel should review these travel advisories for the most up-to-date information. On-campus employees should continue to notify their supervisor in advance of any travel plans that will result in a quarantine requirement so that appropriate planning can take place.

As a reminder, College business travel remains suspended until further notice.

Revision to the Employee Daily Health Screening

The College has modified Question #4 on the employee daily health screening questionnaire to address this change. That question will now read as follows:

Question 4 Have you traveled internationally or to any states within the U.S. *other than* New Jersey, Connecticut, Massachusetts, Pennsylvania, or Vermont within the last fourteen (14) days? If you answer 'yes' to this question, New York State requires all travelers to complete the following online traveler health form to determine whether a 14-day quarantine is required: <https://forms.ny.gov/s3/Welcome-to-New-York-State-Traveler-Health-Form>. You are required to provide Human Resources with a copy of the confirmation of submission of this online traveler health form and inform HR if you are subject to a quarantine requirement. Human Resources will inform you when you can return to campus. Effective November 4, 2020, New York State permits travelers to “test out” of the Executive Order 205 COVID-19 Travel Advisory’s 14-day quarantine requirement, as outlined on the NYS Department of Health website: <https://coronavirus.health.ny.gov/covid-19-travel-advisory>. If you have or will “test out” of the required 14-day quarantine for travel, you must inform Human Resources and provide proof of same.