

## **Travel to States with High Rates of COVID-19 Transmission: Guidelines for Consideration**

As you may be aware, Governor Murphy and the state of New Jersey have issued a voluntary 14-day self-quarantine advisory for individuals arriving from states with increasing rates of COVID-19. The voluntary 14-day NJ quarantine travel advisory applies to travel from certain states identified as those that have a positive COVID-19 test rate higher than 10 per 100,000 residents or have a 10% or higher positivity rate over a seven-day rolling average ("impacted states.")

Atlantic Medical Imaging encourage employees to use safe practices while at work and discourages engaging in any high-risk behaviors during non-working hours. As a result of the increasing prevalence of new positive COVID-19 cases in other states, combined with the new guidance provided by Governor Murphy, we are now highly recommending that employees avoid travel to any of the states actively included on the New Jersey travel restriction list.

We strongly advise employees NOT to electively travel to areas with high (increasing) COVID-19 transmission.

As of Monday, June 30, sixteen states that meet the criteria:

- Alabama
- Arkansas
- Arizona
- California
- Florida
- Georgia
- Iowa
- Idaho
- Louisiana
- Mississippi
- North Carolina
- Nevada
- South Carolina
- Tennessee
- Texas
- Utah

## **Infection Prevention Suggested Response**

A. Employees should review travel plans in advance of travel. Outline of steps:

1. Verify COVID-19 transmission rate of travel destination, updated links for areas of concern below.
2. Employee should carefully review risks and alternatives to "impacted" areas of travel.
3. If travel is unavoidable and especially if in an area with a high rate of COVID-19 transmission, Employee should observe all precautions including social distancing, wearing a face covering

when with persons not of their immediate household, avoiding crowded places such as bars, indoor restaurants, or indoor worship, and frequent hand hygiene.

B. If despite AMI, CDC and NJ state recommendations the employee opts to travel to a destination with a high rate of COVID-19 transmission as detailed above, they should:

1. Contact their supervisor prior to travel and upon return home.
2. Before returning to work, supervisor and employee complete COVID-19 symptom/risk factor screening tool.
3. If high-risk behaviors were unavoidable / occurred during time away, the supervisor may consider a 14-day exclusion of work and give advice to self-quarantine after consulting with employee health and senior management. If recommended for quarantine due to the employees actions or travel activities the 14-day quarantine time would not be covered under unemployment or protected leave under the NJ Family Leave Act. The employee will be required to utilize PTO or UPTO for this absence. If no exposure risk behaviors occurred while away, employee continues daily self-monitoring prior to work, wears a mask at all times when at work, performs diligent hand hygiene and is out of work for any positive finding.
4. Employees are advised to contact their primary care provider if there are any symptoms of COVID-19, including a temperature of 100.4 Fahrenheit or greater.

#### **References:**

Link to site: <https://covid19.nj.gov/faqs/nj-information/general-public/are-there-travel-restrictions-to-or-from-new-jersey-should-i-self-quarantine-if-i-have-recently-traveled>

Updated quarantine information from NJ: <https://covid19.nj.gov/faqs/nj-information/general-public/are-there-travel-restrictions-to-or-from-new-jersey-should-i-self-quarantine-if-i-have-recently-traveled>

Health Department FAQs: [https://nj.gov/health/cd/documents/topics/NCOV/Travel\\_advisoryFAQs\\_6-25-2020.pdf](https://nj.gov/health/cd/documents/topics/NCOV/Travel_advisoryFAQs_6-25-2020.pdf) COVID

State Tracking: <https://covidactnow.org/> CDC International travel advisory: <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/travelers/map-and-travel-notice.html>