

New Guidelines for Out-of-State Travelers

Effective Wednesday, November 4, New York State is changing its travel advisory rules, and is instead shifting to a travel testing policy.

The travel-restricted states have become too numerous, and the 14-day quarantine process impractical. Under the new testing policy there will no longer be a quarantine list or state metrics. Instead, those traveling to New York must take a COVID-19 test before traveling and after arriving to New York. The bordering states (Connecticut, Massachusetts, New Jersey, Pennsylvania, Vermont) are exempted. Essential workers are also exempted from any days of travel quarantine.

Key components of the new rules: Anyone traveling to New York State must take a COVID-19 test within three (3) days before arriving and then show proof of a negative test within three days of arrival in New York. Once arriving in New York State, the traveler must quarantine for three days, then take another COVID-19 test on the fourth day. If the test comes back negative, the traveler is cleared. If the test comes back positive, the traveler must continue to quarantine for a total of 14 days. If people choose not to be tested, a 14-day quarantine is required.

The new rule distinguishes between people who were in another state for more than 24 hours and people who were in another state for less than 24 hours.

For travelers who were in another state for more than 24 hours:

- Travelers must obtain a test within three days prior to departure from that state.
- 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 come back negative, the traveler may exit quarantine early upon receipt of the second negative diagnostic test.

For travelers who were in another 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 a traveler form upon entry into New York State and take a COVID diagnostic test on the fourth day 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. The local health department must make contact with the state the traveler came from, to ensure contact tracing proceeds there as well.

A state website and hotline have been established for individuals to report any person failing to adhere to the guidelines. If you have questions, please visit <http://bit.ly/NYSTTravelAlerts>, or call [1-888-364-3065](tel:1-888-364-3065) today.