

FAQs Regarding Travel Impact to High Incidence States and Internationally

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Consistent with our principle of keeping our team members and patients safe, we have created processes for individuals who travel from high COVID incidence states and internationally.

To ensure the highest degree of safety, we strongly discourage travel to those areas; however, we also acknowledge that there are situations where the travel is unavoidable. In those situations, the following processes are developed to support safe interactions with individuals with this travel history.

These recommendations reflect the complexity of situations that our team members and patients face and acknowledges there isn't a one size fits all solution.

The following FAQ guidance is for our NorthShore team members (employees, professional staff, contracted workers, learners, etc.)

1. Q: What if I've traveled for any amount of time in a high incidence state as my final destination?

A: All NorthShore team members who visit a high incidence state for personal reasons, for any amount of time, are required to complete an Employee Health questionnaire upon their return and quarantine for at least 7 days. The questionnaire can be accessed at Covid19.NorthShore.org. All team members will need their NS employee ID number to log-in. Team members will receive instructions via e-mail and will be scheduled for a COVID PCR test on days 5-7.

*****You do NOT need to complete an Employee Questionnaire if you fall into one of the scenarios below.**

- *Changing planes at airport in high incidence state(s)*
- *Driving through high incidence state(s)*
- *Travel to bring child to college*
- *Travel for medical care*
- *Travel for shared parental custody*
- *Travel for work purposes if you are an 'essential worker'*

NOTE: Parents who accompany students to campus in high-incidence states should quarantine during their stay, avoid all public settings, and limit exposures to others outside of the scheduled move-in time. Upon returning to Chicago, parents are encouraged to avoid non-essential interactions, extended periods in public, contact with strangers, and large congregate settings for 14 days, but are **exempt** from the quarantine requirement of the Chicago Emergency Travel Order. (Chicago.gov)

2. Q: What is the definition of an “essential worker”?

A: According to the Chicago Department of Public Health (CDPH), an “essential worker” is a person who works in critical infrastructure as designated by the Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency. “Essential worker” includes any state, local, and federal officials and employees traveling in their official capacities on government business, including military service

3. Q: If my family travels to a high incidence state, but I do not go with them, do I need to quarantine from my family members (upon their return) for two weeks before I can return to work?

A: No. You can continue to work; however, we encourage you to avoid close interactions with those who have traveled until 14 days have passed. Additionally, you should have heightened awareness to signs and symptoms and stay home if experiencing signs/symptoms. Please complete an Employee Health questionnaire if you become symptomatic.

4. Q: What if I work for NorthShore but my primary residence is in a high incidence state?

A: We are following the guidance from public health leaders that allows those team members to come to work as long as they rigorously follow our safety practice recommendations. These include PPE, social distancing, hand hygiene, and temperature and symptom screening. All NorthShore team members should follow the safe practices when not at work.

5. Q: What happens if my travel COVID test result is negative?

A: If your test is negative, employee Health Services will provide e-mailed instructions regarding return to work at the completion of your 7-day quarantine. You may return to work on day 8 if you have no symptoms.

6. Q: What happens if my travel COVID test result is positive?

A: If your test is positive, Employee Health Services will provide e-mailed instructions regarding an extended quarantine period.

If you test positive and are asymptomatic, the quarantine timeframe is 10 days from the date of testing. If you are symptomatic, the quarantine timeframe is 10 days from the onset of symptoms plus 24 hours after resolution of fever (without fever reducing medication) and symptoms are improving.

7. Q: Is it mandatory for a team member to return on day 8 if their test result is negative?

A: We acknowledge that the nature and specific expertise of some of our workforce is necessary to return to in-person activities as soon as it is safe to do so. NorthShore has invested in COVID PCR testing to safely return team members back to their scheduled shift in less time than the 14-day quarantine period.

8. Q: How is NorthShore keeping track (auditing) these situations?

A: Systems have been put in place to help track the situations that can impact team member and patient health. These include the daily screening app which is to be completed each day prior to coming to work. The app asks important symptom and travel questions.

Team members who receive the red 'no pass' sign, after completing the daily survey, are instructed to complete an Employee Health questionnaire and go through a more robust assessment process. Responses in both systems can be tracked and trended to help us keep team members safe. Team members are expected to follow these processes and protocols as they would all other NorthShore policies.

9. Q: Where can I get more information?

A: Many of the local health departments are in agreement on their approach and we utilize CDPH as the preferred source of updated information. <https://www.chicago.gov/city/en/sites/covid-19/home/emergency-travel-order.html>

10. Q: What if I'm dealing with extenuating personal or unique circumstances that prompt me to travel to a high incidence state?

A: The need to travel to a high incidence state can be discussed further with the team member's leader for additional feedback and guidance.

While we support the general recommendation to limit all non-essential travel, we also appreciate that there are compelling personal reasons for travel at this time. The process defined above provides some flexibility in our approach to bringing team members back into the workforce as quickly as possible and aligning with travel safety protocols.