



COVID-19 Supplement Guidance Document

Out of State Travel

In an effort to reduce the possibility of introducing the COVID-19 virus into a school community, schools must establish a policy applicable to both students and employees which require notification be provided when individuals are traveling out of State to areas not exempted under current State Health Advisory guidance or internationally to areas defined as high risk jurisdictions based upon either positivity rates or other applicable risk metrics.

Purpose:

- To ensure the safety of students and staff by limiting the additional exposure to COVID-19 which could occur as a result of individuals returning to the school campus who have traveled to high risk destinations for COVID-19. This guidance applies regardless of the mode of transportation used to travel to the out of state or international destination.
- To offer guidance to schools on the establishment of a protocol to manage the re-entry of those students and staff who elect to travel to areas of high risk.

Commentary/Procedural Points:

- **Administration:** Each school administration is responsible for establishing a process whereby both students (attending in person) and staff (working on campus in person) are advised if they intend to travel to a state that is not exempt under Maryland Health Department advisory bulletin with a positivity rate for COVID-19 of 10% or greater during the period of their stay or to an international destination with a Risk Level of 3 or 4 during their stay, notification of such intention must be communicated to the school. For purposes of this guidance, the positivity rate or risk level should be based upon the average rate as determined for the period of the entire stay. It is recommended this requirement be communicated in writing with employees. For students, it is recommended this expectation be included in a student/parent conduct agreement. (See Student Conduct Agreement document for more information.)

The school administration is to then advise the parents of the student electing to proceed with high risk travel as defined above that they will be required to meet certain criteria prior to re-entering the school. Any student returning from high risk out-of-state or international travel will be required to quarantine upon their return until such time as either they provide evidence of a negative PCR test result for COVID-19 administered after their return from travel and are asymptomatic or they complete the entire 14-day quarantine.

The school administration is to then advise staff electing to proceed with this high risk travel that they will be required to meet certain criteria prior to re-entering the school. Any staff member returning from high risk out-of-state or international travel will be required to quarantine upon their return until such time as they provide evidence of a negative **rapid** test along with verification of pending PCR test result for COVID-19 administered after their return from travel and are asymptomatic. Staff will be responsible for self-monitoring for symptoms particularly during the period between the rapid and PCR test results. Any staff members who begin to experience symptoms during the pending PCR test results will be required to stay out of school until such time as a second PCR test is administered and returned with negative results.

- **Administration:** Each school administration needs to address with the students and the employees how the period of quarantine upon their return will be addressed. For students, it needs to be determined if the student will be permitted to participate in on line classes. This option should be considered unless it will cause disruptions to the students and instructor participating in the virtual class.

School administration will need to evaluate if they will allow the employee to work remotely during the quarantine. If working remotely is not an option, then the school administration will need to address whether or not the employee is eligible to receive paid time off. If needed the school administration should consult with the Department of Human Resources.

- **Administration:** For purposes of this policy, no employees of any school qualifies as an “essential employee” as defined in the Governor’s Office of Legal Counsel’s COVID-19-04 Interpretative Guidance. As such this policy applies to all employees of each school.

References:

Exempt States Travel Guidelines:

- Any Marylander who travels to a state with a COVID-19 test positivity rate above 10% or with a case rate over 20 per 100,000 in the past 7 days should get tested and self-quarantine at home until the test result is received. **The District of Columbia, the Commonwealth of Virginia, the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, and the States of Delaware and West Virginia are exempt from this recommendation.**

Domestic Travel:

- The following website provides information regarding the positivity rate for all 50 States, US Territories and popular international destinations.
<https://coronavirus.jhu.edu/testing/tracker/overview>

International Travel

- For international travel, we need to be using the State Department information. The following link will take you to a number of destinations and provide a risk schedule from all clear to travel is outright ban.
<https://travel.state.gov/content/travel/en/traveladvisories/traveladvisories.html/>.

If anyone is going to a level 3 or 4 destination and the reason for caution includes COVID concerns then testing and quarantining is required. Keep in mind the basis for the warning needs to be reviewed for each destination as the warnings can include risks other than COVID.