

## **SBAR – COVID-19 testing still required prior to returning to work from travel**

S: As of March 19, Governor Lamont’s Executive Order No.9S, Section 1 regarding travel no longer requires testing or quarantine. However, CT residents and travelers to CT are still recommended to continue to follow travel-related guidance from the CDC, which have not changed, whether the traveler is vaccinated against COVID-19 or not. For details see: <https://portal.ct.gov/Coronavirus/Travel>

And

<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/travelers/travel-during-covid19.html>

B: Prior to March 19, CT residents were required to have a negative COVID-19 test or complete a 10-day home quarantine prior to returning to work, and also submit a completed Travel Health Form. These are no longer required.

The Health System’s requirements regarding post-travel for employees and members of the Medical Staff has consistently been:

- Staff who travel outside of CT/RI/NY/NJ will need a negative COVID-19 test prior to return to work in lieu of quarantine. If their test result is negative, they can return to work without formal clearance.
  - A PCR or rapid antigen test (but not an antibody test) may be performed 72 hours prior to the return to CT/RI or after return. Staff are expected to quarantine at home until the result is shown to be negative.
  - If a staff member prefers to be tested through YNHHS after they return, they can self-schedule their test by logging onto: <https://ocucovidtesting.ynhhs.org/> Aside from getting their test done, staff are expected to quarantine at home until the result is shown to be negative.
  - Results from tests performed outside of YNHHS should be emailed to Occupational Health through the Employee Resource Center: [COVID19RTW@ynhh.org](mailto:COVID19RTW@ynhh.org)
- Exception: Any travel for less than 24 hours is not considered significant enough to test or quarantine. Staff can return to work and self-monitor for fever or symptoms of COVID-19 like any other staff.

A: Individuals who have completed their COVID-19 vaccine series more than 2 weeks ago have reasonable protection against COVID-19 infection vs. those who are unvaccinated. However, the vaccines are not 100% effective for the typical strains of COVID-19 virus, and there is no evidence thus far that they are effective against all variants. *Travel is still considered high risk.*

R: Staff traveling outside of your local community should still consider that travel increases your risk of getting and spreading COVID-19 to others.

**To help ensure the safety of our patients and co-workers, we will continue to require COVID-19 testing prior to work when returning from travel outside of CT/RI/NY/NJ. We will continue to monitor expert guidance and scientific data and continue to update YNHHS requirements over time.**

In addition, during travel staff should take precautions to protect themselves and others including wear a well-fitting mask, wash hands or use alcohol-based hand rub frequently, physically distance from others as much as possible, and if eligible, get fully vaccinated for COVID-19. After returning from travel, employees must continue to self-monitor for fever or symptoms of COVID-19 and stay at home and get tested if they experience any of these.