Connecticut Executive Order 9C: Staff Travel Implications
September 22, 2020

S: YNHHS staff travel

B: COVID remains prevalent across much of the US. While the frequency of transmission of SARS-CoV-2 Connecticut and Rhode Island has been under a reasonable degree of control, the introduction of persons from areas of high prevalence presents a risk. The Governor of the state of Connecticut signed Executive Order 9C, which became effective September 18th, 2020 and requires persons entering Connecticut who have been in a state or country identified as experiencing a high occurrence of COVID to self-quarantine or obtain testing. Healthcare staff entering Connecticut are exempt from this order if their travel was related to work in healthcare but are NOT exempt if travel was not work related (e.g., vacation or other personal travel).

A: In alignment with the Governor's order, YNHHS staff, including non-employed medical staff, allied health and health professions students, volunteers and all others who work or volunteer in YNHHS facilities, are required either to self-quarantine for 14 days upon return from an affected state or country, OR be tested for COVID before or after return to Connecticut.

R:
1. Work-related travel to an affected state or country is generally prohibited for YNHHS employees. The list of affected states is updated weekly and can be found here: https://portal.ct.gov/Coronavirus/Covid-19-Knowledge-Base/Travel-In-or-Out-of-CT

2. Personal travel to affected states or countries is discouraged.

3. Staff returning from an affected state or country must either quarantine for 14 days or submit to a testing strategy. Testing consists of a PCR assay for COVID either within 72 hours of return to Connecticut or after return and staff may return to work if this test is negative. Staff shall also be tested a second time 7 days after return from travel. Testing should be arranged by contacting Occupational Health through the Call Center at 203-688-1700. Staff may return to work if this initial test is negative.

4. Staff returning from an affected state or country must submit a Travel Health Form and comply with all other aspects of the state order. https://appengine.egov.com/apps/ct/DPH/Connecticut-Travel-Health-Form
5. YNHHS employees and others with YNHHS responsibilities who may be impacted by the requirement to self-quarantine or submit to testing must;
   A. Communicate their travel to an affected state or country to their supervisor, preferably prior to travel.
   B. Report travel to an Affected State to YNHHS Occupational Health by calling the COVID-19 Call Center: 203-688-1700 (use Option 2) [7a – 7p daily] The Call Center can schedule COVID testing in advance travel for both the initial and 7 day test to help prevent any delay.

6. YNHHS staff are reminded to self-monitor for fever and COVID symptoms twice daily, including before arriving at work. If symptoms or fever develop, remain home and report your condition to the COVID-19 Call Center (use Option 2 for Occupational Health).

7. All employees and other staff are expected to adhere to the YNHHS values, Code of Conduct, HRO practices, and standards of professional behavior. Employees are expected to report travel to affected states or countries; adhere to quarantine or testing and self-monitoring requirements; and report if they become symptomatic. Acting with integrity and being 200% accountable requires full transparency and timely reporting, so that the safety of patients and fellow colleagues can best be protected.
1. How long does one need to be in an affected state or country for it to be considered significant?
   A: 24 hours or more.

2. Are new staff relocating to Connecticut from an affected state or country to work at YNHHS required to self-quarantine?
   A: No. New staff relocating to Connecticut, or neighboring states, to work at YNHHS, (including but not limited to “travelers”, professional or allied health students and post-graduate trainees) are considered to be exempt, but will be tested for COVID-19 during their pre-placement medical exam.

3. Will staff be required to get clearance from the Call Center after their 14-day quarantine (or negative COVID PCR test)?
   A. Yes, staff are expected to call the Call Center for a return to work letter.

4. When does this change become effective at YNHHS?

5. If I am home under self-quarantine, may I telework?
   A: Yes, if you are approved for telework and your supervisor authorizes telework for you during this period.