

March 22, 2020

## Healthcare Professionals Returning from Travel Outside of New Mexico

*Originally released on March 20, 2020, changes to this guidance are noted in italics.*

Health systems and hospitals in New Mexico rely heavily on locum tenens and providers who reside permanently in other states but regularly work in New Mexico, or vice versa. Many emergency rooms and hospitalist groups will not be able to maintain operations if all healthcare professionals (HCPs) who have traveled outside of New Mexico in the last 14-days are required to initiate 14-day self-isolation.

Therefore, the Department of Health (DOH) proposes the following guidance for HCPs who have traveled outside of the state, including to communities or states without community transmission in the last 14 days.

- Report recent domestic or foreign travel to employee health at the hospital, urgent care, or clinic before reporting to duty.
- For HCPs returning to New Mexico from areas without community transmission, employee health staff, or appropriate designees, will conduct and record twice daily fever and symptom checks (beginning and middle of shifts).
- At the first sign of fever or other symptoms, the employee will be relieved of duty, tested for COVID-19, reported to NMDOH, and sent home to self-isolate.

Additionally:

- If the HCP has traveled to New Mexico from an area of the world or United States with community transmission, the HCP will need to be placed on 14-day self-isolation and will not be allowed to work.
- HCPs who return to New Mexico from anywhere **and** are experiencing respiratory symptoms will not be allowed to work until they have had a negative COVID-19 test and respiratory symptoms have resolved. In the presence of a negative COVID-19 test result, other respiratory testing results (e.g., a positive influenza test; or other positive respiratory virus test result) can also guide recommendations for when the individual can return to work.
- HCPs who had exposure to a known case of COVID-19 *should immediately report the exposure to their employee health and infection prevention departments. The HCP will receive instructions on work restrictions or symptom monitoring using guidance from the CDC for assessing exposure risk to HCP found at: <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/hcp/guidance-risk-assesment-hcp.html>.*

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