
Healthcare Professionals Returning from Travel Outside of New Mexico March 27, 2020

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 personnel (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.

- Report recent domestic or foreign travel to employee health at the hospital, urgent care, or clinic before reporting to duty.
- HCPs returning from domestic or foreign travel should report to employee health, infection prevention or other appropriate designees, and undergo active monitoring. Employee health or infection prevention will conduct and record twice daily fever and symptom checks (beginning and middle of shifts) for HCP with any travel outside the state. HCP should assure they are afebrile and asymptomatic before leaving home and reporting to work.
- HCPs on active monitoring for recent domestic or foreign travel will wear a surgical mask (for source control) throughout their shift.
- 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:

- HCPs experiencing respiratory symptoms and/or fever (measured temperature ≥ 100.4) will not be allowed to work until they have had a negative COVID-19 test and respiratory symptoms have resolved.
- HCP who have an exposure (while not wearing any PPE or wearing only partial PPE) to a known case of COVID-19 should immediately report the exposure to their employee health and infection prevention departments. The HCP will be given 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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