

**ORDER OF THE COMMISSIONER OF HEALTH OF THE CITY OF CHICAGO**  
**No. 2020-10**  
**(QUARANTINE RESTRICTIONS ON PERSONS ENTERING CHICAGO FROM HIGH CASE-RATE STATES)**

Issued: July 2, 2020

Section 3 of Order No. 2020-10 authorizes the Commissioner of Health to issue protocols governing implementation of this Order. These protocols, as may be amended from time to time, are set forth below in FAQ format for convenience.

**Frequently Asked Questions**

**Q: Why is this order being issued and what does it mean?**

A: In response to increased and high rates of COVID-19 transmission in certain states within the United States, and to add to Chicago's efforts to contain the spread of COVID-19, the City is issuing an order applicable to anyone coming into the City from designated states that have a significant degree of community-wide spread of COVID-19. This includes both Chicago residents returning from travel to a designated state, and travelers arriving in Chicago from a designated state. Anyone traveling from a designated state is directed to self-quarantine for a 14-day period or the duration of their time in Chicago, whichever is shorter, from the time of last contact within the designated state, subject to the limited exceptions set out below.

**Q: When does the Order go into effect?**

A: This Order goes into effect on Monday July 6, 2020, at 12:01AM.

**Q: Where does the Order apply?**

A: The Order applies to individuals arriving in the City of Chicago, while they are in the city. The city limits are defined in this [interactive map](#).

**Q: What if I'm flying into a Chicago airport or riding a train to a Chicago station, but not staying in the city?**

A: The Order does not apply to individuals flying into a Chicago airport and then traveling directly to a suburban municipality or otherwise out of the city limits. However, all individuals are expected to follow the latest [public health guidance](#) for Chicago while in the city, including in the airport terminal.

**Q: What if I am flying into a Chicago airport or riding a train to a Chicago station, but not staying in the city?**

The Order does not apply to individuals changing planes at a Chicago airport, changing trains at a Chicago station, or traveling directly to a suburban municipality or otherwise out of the city limits. However, all individuals are expected to follow the latest [public health guidance](#) for Chicago while in the city, including in the airport terminals and railroad stations. This includes the mandate that individuals over the age of 2 wear masks or face coverings at all times.

**Q: How will states be designated under the Order?**

A: A state will be designated if it has a case rate greater than 15 new COVID-19 cases per 100,000 resident population, per day, over a 7-day rolling average.

**Q: What states are currently covered by the Order?**

A: A list of the states currently covered by the Order can be found [here](#).

**Q: What if a state on the list goes below 15 daily cases per 100k residents?**

A: A state on the designated list will be taken off the list when the daily case average declines below 15 daily cases per 100k residents for two consecutive weeks.

**Q: Will the list change? When will it change?**

A: The list of states will be reviewed and amended every Tuesday, starting July 14, 2020, with the order effective for those states the following Friday (three days later).

**Q: What if I am traveling internationally?**

A: Travelers coming from international locations are not covered by this Order and should follow [Centers for Disease Control and Prevention](#) guidelines.

**Q: What if I live outside Chicago but work in the city?**

A: Individuals who live outside Chicago but regularly commute into Chicago for work can continue to do so as usual if they have not traveled to a high incidence state. If they have traveled to a high incidence state, they are subject to the “essential worker” conditions and requirements for Chicago residents set forth in this FAQ in order to not have to quarantine.

**Q: What are employer responsibilities if employees travel to one of the impacted states for non work-related travel?**

A. Any employer with an employee subject to the quarantine because the employee departed the state on or after Monday July 6 for non work-related travel, and subject themselves to quarantine upon return, should consult the City's Anti-Retaliation Ordinance, Paid Sick Leave Ordinance, and the Families First Coronavirus Response Act (FFCRA) in determining the appropriate response. If the employer is covered under the FFCRA and if the employee is unable to work or telework due to one of the specified COVID-related reasons in the FFCRA, the employee is likely eligible for up to two weeks of paid leave under the [FFCRA](#).

**Q: How long is the Order in effect?**

A: The Order will be in effect until further notice, and any changes will be based on applicable public health guidance.

**Q: What happens if I violate the Order?**

A: Individuals found in violation of the Order are subject to fines of \$100 - \$500 per day, up to \$7,000.

**Q: What if I arrived in Chicago before the effective date of the Order, do I still have to quarantine?**

A: The Order impacts individuals who arrive in Chicago on or after the effective date of July 6, 2020. If you arrive in Chicago prior to that date, the Order does not impact you. However, all individuals are expected to follow the latest [public health guidance](#) for Chicago.

**Q: What if I came from a state that was later removed from the list? Do I still need to quarantine for the full 14 day period?**

A: If you have arrived from a state that was later removed from Chicago's quarantine list, you can end your quarantine on the date it is announced that the state is being removed.

**Q: What if I had a connecting flight through one of the designated states but did not stay there?**

A: The Order does not apply to any individual passing through designated states for less than 24 hours in the course of travel.

**Q: Are there travel restrictions after international travel?**

A: Chicago residents should follow [IDPH's international travel guidelines](#) which include staying home if possible and monitoring your health for 14 days.

**Q: Are there travel restrictions within Illinois?**

A: There are no travel restrictions within Illinois. However, unnecessary travel to the areas of concern is discouraged. Areas of concern are determined by IDPH and can be [found here](#). If essential travel is needed to these areas, follow the usual prevention techniques such as using a face covering, frequent hand washing/sanitization, and maintaining social distancing. If you feel sick, you should refrain from all travel and stay at home, unless seeking medical treatment.

**Q: What if I drove through one of the designated states but did not stay there?**

A: The Order does not apply to any individual passing through designated states for less than 24 hours in the course of travel.

**Q: What if I travel to a state on the list, but am there for less than 24 hours?**

A: If your final destination is a state on the designated list, then you must quarantine for 14 days, even if you are in that state for less than 24 hours. If you are traveling through designated state, and are in the state for less than 24 hours, then you do not need to quarantine.

**Q: What if I was in a designated state and then traveled to a non-designated state before arriving in Chicago? Do I still need to quarantine?**

A: Yes, if you were in a designated state, unless you are traveling through, you must quarantine for 14 days from the time of last contact within the designated state, even if you spent time in a non-designated state for a period after being in the designated state and before arriving in Chicago

**Q: What if I have to travel for my job?**

A: Travelers coming to Chicago for non-essential business and residents returning to Chicago from a designated state must adhere to the quarantine guidelines, subject to the limited exceptions set out below.

**Q: I already had my flight booked/trip planned, do I still have to follow the quarantine Order?**

A: Yes, all travelers arriving from designated states on or after the effective date of July 6, 2020, are required to follow the quarantine Order, subject to the limited exceptions set out below.

**Q: What if I came from one of the designated states and am staying less than 14 days?**

A: The mandatory self-quarantine is for a period of 14 days or the duration of the individual's presence in Chicago, whichever is shorter.

**Q: What does it mean to quarantine?**

A: Quarantine helps prevent the spread of disease before a person knows they are sick, including if a traveler has been infected with the virus but does not have symptoms. Under this Order, quarantine means staying at a single designated home or dwelling for 14 days before doing any activities outside of the home or dwelling. People in quarantine should separate themselves from others as much as possible and check themselves for symptoms. Additional requirements under quarantine include:

- The individual must not be in public or otherwise leave the dwelling that they have identified as suitable for their quarantine, unless seeking medical care or COVID-19 testing.
- If seeking medical care or testing, or when traveling to or from the airport, train station, or bus station (if applicable), a face covering must be worn and public transportation must not be used.
- Food and other needed supplies must be delivered to the individual's dwelling; the individual may not leave the premises to acquire supplies.
- The traveling individual or family group should be situated in separate quarters with a separate bedroom and, if possible, separate bathroom facility from non-traveling household members.
- The individual must self-monitor for symptoms potentially consistent with COVID-19. If any symptoms develop, the individual may leave the dwelling to receive testing for COVID-19 but then must return to complete the 14-day quarantine while isolating from other household members, regardless of the test result. A face covering must be worn while seeking testing.

**Q: I don't have any symptoms - do I still have to quarantine?**

A: Yes, all travelers from the designated states must quarantine for the full 14 days, subject to the limited exceptions set out below. Individuals can develop symptoms and become contagious up to 14 days from their last exposure.

**Q: What if I get tested and am negative - do I still have to quarantine?**

A: Yes, even individuals with a negative test result must quarantine for the full 14 days if coming from a designated state. Individuals can develop symptoms and become contagious up to 14 days from their last exposure.

**Q: My family/friends are coming from one of the designated states and are staying with me - do I have to quarantine too?**

A: No. Traveling individuals are encouraged to self-quarantine in the home they are traveling to in Chicago and should avoid close interactions with non-traveling household members until the 14 days have passed. Other household members who did not travel from a designated state are not required to self-quarantine.

**Q: I'm returning from one of the designated states - can I go to work or is that a violation of the Order?**

A: All travelers returning to Chicago from the designated states must self-quarantine for 14 days, subject to the limited exceptions set out below.

**Q: Are there any exceptions to the Order?**

A. For purposes of the Order and this FAQ, "essential workers" are not subject to the mandatory self-quarantine if their travel is for work purposes under the following circumstances:

(a) if a non-resident of Chicago, is traveling from a designated state to Chicago for the primary purpose of carrying out their primary work in Chicago, and who needs to be physically present in Chicago in order to carry out that primary work, with identification issued by their employer, or

(b) if a resident of Chicago, is returning from a designated state, and was in the designated state for the primary purpose of carrying out their primary work in that state,

and who needed to be physically present in that state in order to carry out that primary work, with identification issued by their employer.

An essential worker whose travel is for non-work purposes is subject to the mandatory self-quarantine and is not covered by this exception.

An “essential worker” is a person who works in [critical infrastructure as designated by the Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency](#). “Essential worker” includes any state, local, and federal officials and employees traveling in their official capacities on government business, including military service.

Essential workers traveling for work purposes are subject to the following requirements:

- Essential workers should avoid any non-essential interactions until the quarantine period has ended. They must limit their activities to work-related activities and functions that directly support their work-related activities, and avoid public spaces as much as possible.
- Essential workers should monitor temperature and signs of symptoms, wear a face covering when in public, maintain social distance, and clean and disinfect workspaces.
- Essential workers are required, to the extent possible, to avoid extended periods in public, contact with strangers, and large congregate settings.

Exceptions to the Order for personal travel will be permitted for travel for medical care and parental shared custody. The Commissioner of Health may additionally grant an exemption based upon an organization’s or business’ testing and other control policies or in extraordinary circumstances, which warrant an exception from mandatory quarantine, subject to the terms and conditions applied to essential workers or terms and conditions otherwise imposed by the Commissioner in the interest of public health.

**Q: How will this information be updated? How will travelers be notified?**

A: The Order and its effects will be communicated through messaging on highways, at airports, on the City’s website, and through social media. Hotels and short-term rentals will be asked to communicate the 14-day quarantine to guests who have traveled from one of the designated states.

**Q: What if I live in a designated state and am arriving for the semester at a college or university in Chicago?**

A: Students are expected to follow the quarantine order, and should ask their school for guidance on how best to meet the quarantine order. CDPH has worked with institutes of higher education to provide various acceptable options.

**Q: What if I live in a designated state and am dropping my child off at college in Chicago?**

A: Parents who accompany students to campus from high-incidence states should quarantine during their stay, avoid all public settings, and limit exposures to others outside of the scheduled move-in time.

**Q: What If I am a Chicago resident dropping off my child at college in a designated state?**

A: Parents who accompany students to campus in high-incidence states should quarantine during their stay, avoid all public settings, and limit exposures to others outside of the scheduled move-in time. Upon returning to Chicago, parents are encouraged to avoid non-essential interactions, extended periods in public, contact with strangers, and large congregate settings

for 14 days, but are exempt from the quarantine requirement of the Chicago Emergency Travel Order.