



**NEW BEDFORD PUBLIC SCHOOLS**  
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**THOMAS ANDERSON**  
SUPERINTENDENT

**DATE:** August 25, 2020

**TO:** All NBPS Staff

**FROM:** Office of Human Capital Services

**RE: Massachusetts Executive Travel Order**

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On August 1, 2020 Governor Baker issued an Executive Order related to travel to/from Massachusetts. In accordance with the Travel Order and in an effort to ensure the safety of our staff, New Bedford Public Schools strongly discourages our employees from taking leisure travel to non-lower-risk destinations. New Bedford Public Schools will continue to follow all state and local orders safety guidelines relating to COVID-19.

The travel order states, in part, that all individuals arriving in Massachusetts by any means or mode, including Massachusetts residents who have left the state for anything more than transitory travel, are covered by the Massachusetts travel rule. Quarantine for 14 days or produce a negative COVID-19 test result that has been administered up to 72-hours prior to your arrival in Massachusetts.

Pursuant to the Governor's Travel Order, staff who travel out of state must quarantine for fourteen (14) days upon returning to Massachusetts unless they:

1. Are coming from a lower-risk state as designated by the Department of Public Health (DPH). Currently, the states designated as lower-risk are: Connecticut, Maine, New Hampshire, Vermont, New York, New Jersey, and Hawaii. The list of states designated by DPH as lower-risk is subject to change based on public health data. Please visit the Commonwealth of Massachusetts website for the most up to date information. [MA Travel Order](#)  
or



*The New Bedford Public Schools do not discriminate on the basis of age, gender, race, color, religion, ethnicity, national origin, disability, sexual orientation, ancestry, homelessness, gender identity, gender expression or immigration status.*



2. Can produce, on request, proof of negative test result for COVID-19 from a DPH-approved test administered from a sample taken no longer than 72 hours before your arrival in Massachusetts; or

3. Meet one or more of the limited criteria for exemption under the Travel Order. [Travel Order Exemptions](#).

Please note the travel exemptions include: **Persons Commuting for Work or School:** People who regularly commute, at least weekly, outside of Massachusetts to a fixed place to attend school or work or any person who regularly commutes, at least weekly into Massachusetts to a fixed place to attend school or work; provided that in either case, this exception applies only to and from the person's residence and place of work or school.

New Bedford Public Schools employees who elect to submit to COVID-19 testing after returning to Massachusetts **will not be permitted to return to work and MUST quarantine until proof of a negative test result** is received by Human Capital Services. Testing will be at the employee's own expense. During the quarantine period employees may be eligible to use any available Emergency Paid Sick Leave (EPSL) under the FFCRA or their own personal /vacation days if FFCRA time is not available.

Prior to traveling, employees must notify their direct supervisor and make arrangements about their plan to return to work. New Bedford Public Schools, in its discretion, reserves the right to deny requests for vacation leave, personal leave, and/or unpaid leave based on the district's operational and/or staffing needs where an employee may become subject to the 14-day quarantine requirement upon returning from leave. Decisions regarding approval of vacation leave and employees returning to work from vacation leave will be made on a case-by-case basis by the District in accordance with this policy and other New Bedford Public Schools policies and/or collective bargaining agreements.

This guidance is subject to change based on updated guidance from the CDC, DPH, or other State, Federal, or local government officials.