APPLICABLE TO:

All Associates.

POLICY:

To protect our colleagues in the work place and our patients from Coronavirus (COVID-19), Montefiore Medicine is instituting travel restrictions in accordance with health guidance from the CDC (Centers for Disease Control and Prevention). These restrictions are in effect as of today and will remain in place for at least the next 60 days.

**International and Domestic work-related travel:** Montefiore has instituted a ban on international work-related travel, including business/academic attendance at meetings, conferences, etc., to all countries. Additionally, Montefiore has instituted a ban on all domestic work-related travel, including business/academic attendance at meetings, conferences, etc.

**International and Domestic personal travel:** Montefiore is strongly encouraging Associates to defer any personal travel plans. Currently, the CDC recommends that travelers avoid all nonessential international travel to all countries. Associates who choose to travel internationally despite the CDC’s recommendations should notify OHS of their plans before they leave. The CDC further advises that anyone returning from international travel self-quarantine for 14 days. Upon their return, these Associates must notify OHS and remain home for 14 days for self-quarantine. These Associates will not be eligible for pay during this period of self-quarantine.

The CDC recommends that individuals avoid all domestic travel unless it is essential (e.g. to provide medical or home care to others). Accordingly, Montefiore is encouraging Associates to defer any personal travel plans to areas within the United States unless the reason for the travel is essential.

Additionally, effective June 25, 2020, New York State, New Jersey and Connecticut have announced a joint incoming travel advisory that all individuals traveling from states with significant community spread of COVID-19 must quarantine for a 14-day period from the time of last contact within the identified state. Significant community spread is defined as any state with a positive test rate higher than 10 per 100,000 residents over a 7-day rolling average or a state with a 10% or higher positivity rate over a 7-day rolling average. As of June 26, 2020, this quarantine applies to the following states: Alabama; Arkansas; Arizona; California; Florida; Georgia; Iowa; Idaho; Louisiana; Mississippi; Nevada; North Carolina; South Carolina; Tennessee; Texas; and Utah.
The list of prohibited states where such community spread has occurred, will be updated regularly by New York State. Please check the following link for the updated list of states.


In response to the NYS directives, Associates returning from travel from a designated state may return to work but only after being tested for COVID-19 via Polymerized Chain Reaction (PCR). A returning Associate should notify OHS of their recent travel and seek to be tested as soon as possible (within 24 hours) after their return. The Associate should ensure that testing is scheduled at a time that allows results to be received prior to the first scheduled date of return to work.

If the Associate tests negative for COVID-19, they may return to work but should continue to monitor their temperature and symptoms for the next 14 days. If the Associate tests positive, they must quarantine at home for the 14 days during which time they will use their PTO.

A returning Associate who declines to be tested must quarantine at home for 14 days as per the Governor’s directives and will not be eligible for pay during this period.

Please note that these decisions regarding travel restrictions are fluid and are subject to change as the situation evolves. While these restrictions are not perfect, they are an important representation of our commitment to controlling the impact of COVID-19 on the health and safety of all our patients and Associates across the system.

We thank you for your cooperation as always.