

## COVID-19 Response and Reactivation Update

### July 16: Chicago Travel Quarantine Impact on Physicians, Patients and Visitors, On-site Meeting Guidelines and WGN Radio Event

*This twice-weekly communication is intended to facilitate the sharing of important clinical information about COVID-19 pandemic response and reactivation initiatives across Northwestern Medicine.*

Today's issue focuses on how the Chicago Emergency Travel Order impacts physicians, employees, patients and visitors to NM facilities. It also covers personal and professional travel for physicians and employees, and guidelines for scheduling and hosting a meeting in an NM conference room.

#### **CHICAGO TRAVEL QUARANTINE AND NM VISITOR POLICIES**

Several states have been added to the City of Chicago's Emergency Travel Order. Travelers arriving in the city from states experiencing a surge in new COVID-19 cases will need to quarantine for a 14-day period. The city of Chicago updates the states that are on the quarantine list every Tuesday. The most current list can be found [here](#).

This order impacts all physicians, employees and visitors at any NM facility located within the City of Chicago, including Northwestern Memorial Hospital and any of its outpatient facilities.

The quarantine rule does not apply for patients coming to Northwestern Memorial Hospital or any of its outpatient facilities for care. Please encourage patients to call prior to their appointment to ensure that they are being seen at the most appropriate location and/or to discuss telehealth appointment options as appropriate.

#### **NM patient and visitor policies**

Northwestern Memorial Hospital screens all visitors who wish to visit a hospitalized patient. Visitors who have traveled to an identified high-risk state within the past 14 days will not be allowed to visit an inpatient. Visitor policy exceptions may be granted at the discretion of the care team. Please visit the [Visitor Restrictions Due to COVID-19 page](#) on nm.org for visitor policy information and exceptions by hospital.

#### **Personal domestic travel**

NM physicians and employees are strongly encouraged to postpone personal travel to areas of the U.S. where COVID-19 is prevalent. As a healthcare provider, you may be able to return to work

after eight days if certain conditions are met, including a negative COVID-19 test on days 5 to 7 after returning.

If you have traveled to an identified high-risk state, and live or work within the City of Chicago, call the COVID-19 Hotline at 312.47.COVID (312.472.6843) prior to returning to work at NM to determine whether and for how long you will be required to self-quarantine. If you do not live in Chicago or travel to Chicago for work, you should call the COVID-19 Hotline if you had a known exposure to COVID-19 while traveling or if you experience any symptoms of COVID-19. The COVID-19 Hotline is open from 8 am to 5 pm, Monday through Friday, and from 8 am to noon on Saturday and Sunday.

### **Personal international travel**

NM physicians and employees are strongly discouraged from traveling internationally. If you embark on international travel, you may be required to self-quarantine upon return. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) recommends that you avoid all nonessential international travel. If you have recently traveled internationally, you should stay at home for 14 days after returning, monitor your health and practice physical distancing. Learn more on the CDC website: [CDC Returning from International Travel](#).

### **NM-sponsored and professional travel**

Subject to change as the situation warrants, all NM-sponsored international and domestic travel is cancelled. Please do not submit new applications for events that require travel at this time, as you will not be reimbursed. If you have prepaid your conference fees, airfare and/or hotel deposit, reach out to the event organizer, airline and/or hotel to request a refund. If the organizer or vendor denies your request for a refund, request documentation to that effect. Contact MyNM Service Center at [mynmservicecenter@nm.org](mailto:mynmservicecenter@nm.org) or 312.926.HELP (4357) for instructions on submitting documentation for a refund.

Attendance at local business-related events will be left to the discretion of the attendee. Virtual or remote attendance is strongly encouraged. For reimbursement as part of the EdAssist application, NM employees may be required to provide documentation to indicate that the event is local.

### **MEETING AND CONFERENCE ROOM GUIDELINES**

Conference rooms across the health system are available for hosting meetings of up to 50 attendees. Below are the updated guidelines for scheduling and attending a meeting in an NM conference room:

- Directors/VPs must approve meetings they aren't attending.
- All attendees must be masked and maintain 6 feet of physical distance.
- Maximum capacities for all facilities will follow Illinois Phase 4 guidelines:
  - No more than 50% room capacity
  - No more than 50 people regardless of room capacity
- Cleaning will continue to occur by users as they start their meetings

### **TUNE INTO THE NM PHYSICIAN RADIO PANEL TODAY**

WGN Radio 720 AM is hosting a virtual panel from 3 to 7 pm Thursday, July 16, during which NM physicians will discuss COVID-19, safety measures at NM, and the latest advancements in some of the specialties most impacted by COVID-19, including pulmonology, neurology and cardiology. The schedule for this special radio event is as follows:

- 3:05 pm – James Adams, MD, Chief Medical Officer
- 4:05 pm (Pulmonology) – Jyoti Patel, MD, Medical Director of Thoracic Oncology
- 5:35 pm (Neurology) – Ali Shaibani, MD, Chief of Neurointerventional Radiology
- 6:35 pm (Cardiology) – Clyde Yancy, MD, Chief of Cardiology at Northwestern University Feinberg School of Medicine and Associate Director of the Bluhm Cardiovascular Institute at Northwestern Memorial Hospital

Please remember, if members of the media reach out to you for comment or an interview, per **NM's Media Relations Policy**, please refer them to Media Relations at 312.926.7432.

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Thank you to all NM physicians and clinicians for your ongoing support, collaboration and dedication to providing exceptional care during this unprecedented pandemic.



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