

August 18, 2020

Dear REC Community:

Thank you for your collaborative commitment to the health and safety of our students and staff. As COVID-19 continues to rapidly change New York City and our school community, we would like to take this opportunity to share some related updates with you:

In response to increased rates of COVID-19 transmission in certain states within the United States and to protect New York's successful containment of COVID-19, the State has joined with New Jersey and Connecticut in issuing a travel advisory for anyone returning from travel to other [states that have a significant degree of community-wide spread of COVID-19](#).<sup>1</sup> The travel advisory became effective as of Thursday, June 25, 2020. If you have traveled from within one of the [designated states](#)<sup>2</sup> with significant community spread, you must quarantine when you enter New York for 14 days from the last travel within such designated state, provided on the date you enter into New York State that such state met the criteria for requiring such quarantine. Children, staff, and parents/caregivers who are required to quarantine will not be permitted to attend or enter any REC site for the duration of their quarantine.

- The requirements of the travel advisory do not apply to any individual passing through designated states for a limited duration (i.e., less than 24 hours) through the course of travel.
- Examples of such brief passage include but are not limited to: stopping at rest stops for vehicles, buses, and/or trains; or lay-overs for air travel, bus travel, or train travel.
- The travel advisory requires all New Yorkers, as well as those visiting from out of state, to take personal responsibility for complying with the advisory in the best interest of public health and safety.

For questions about the travel advisory please refer to the guidance linked [here](#).<sup>3</sup> Per [CDC guidance](#), those who have traveled internationally within 14 days should quarantine as well.<sup>4</sup>

We would also like to remind you about the importance of using face coverings while in REC sites. Please refer to this [link](#) for guidance.<sup>5</sup> In addition, The Mayor's Office of ThriveNYC has released the following new guide: [COVID-19 Guide to Mental Health Resources for Children, Teens & Young Adults](#).<sup>6</sup> This guide provides mental health resources and support that can be used by children, teens and young adults, adults, and parents/caregivers.

As a reminder, we are continuing to take the following precautions at RECs:

- Disinfecting each REC daily in accordance with New York State Department of Health guidelines.
- Maintaining at least six feet of social distance between all individuals (students and staff members), as per CDC guidelines.
- Parents are asked to monitor their children's health each morning to make sure they do not have a fever, cough, shortness of breath, or sore throat before they arrive at the centers.
- Everyone attending or working at the REC is screened for COVID-19 symptoms, including a temperature check, and only those who are symptom-free are allowed to enter.
- Staff or students who become sick must stay home and cannot attend the center.

For more information on symptoms, monitoring your health, and what to do if you get sick, visit [nyc.gov/coronavirus](https://nyc.gov/coronavirus) and look for "Novel Coronavirus Outbreak Factsheet."

Nothing matters more than the health and safety of our community, and we thank you for your support.

Regards,  
NYC Department of Education

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<sup>1</sup> Link to NYS COVID-19 Travel Advisory: <https://coronavirus.health.ny.gov/covid-19-travel-advisory>

<sup>2</sup> Link to NYS Restricted States: <https://coronavirus.health.ny.gov/covid-19-travel-advisory>

<sup>3</sup> Link to NYS Interim Guidance for Quarantine Restrictions on Travelers Arriving in New York State Following Out of State Travel: [https://coronavirus.health.ny.gov/system/files/documents/2020/06/interimguidance\\_traveladvisory.pdf](https://coronavirus.health.ny.gov/system/files/documents/2020/06/interimguidance_traveladvisory.pdf)

<sup>4</sup> Link to CDC After You Travel: <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/travelers/after-travel-precautions.html>

<sup>5</sup> Link to NYC COVID-19 Face Coverings – FAQ: <https://www1.nyc.gov/assets/doh/downloads/pdf/imm/covid-19-face-covering-faq.pdf>

<sup>6</sup> Link to NYC COVID-19 Guide to Mental Health Resources for Children, Teens, and Young Adults: <https://thrivenyc.cityofnewyork.us/wp-content/uploads/2020/06/062920-YouthServicesGuide-Mobile-1-1.pdf>