

OFFICE OF THE BISHOP

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To: All Priests, Religious, Deacons and Catholic Center Colleagues
From: Most Reverend Frank J. Caggiano
Re: CT Travel Advisory and Face Masks
Date: August 24, 2020

CT Travel Advisory

The Connecticut Commissioner of Public Health recently changed the guidelines for anyone who has spent more than 24 hours outside of Connecticut in one of the states on the current quarantine advisory list ("Affected States"). The updated guidance, effective July 28, 2020, can be found on the following website along with the list of Affected States currently on the quarantine advisory list: <https://portal.ct.gov/Coronavirus/travel>.

As a result of these changes and our own concerns regarding the safety of all:

- Anyone entering and staying in Connecticut from an Affected State must self-quarantine for 14 days. Self-quarantine is the preferred method of preventing the spread of COVID-19.
- Fill out a travel health form upon arrival. Upon completion, it will automatically be submitted.
- The form is available online at: <https://appengine.egov.com/apps/ct/DPH/Connecticut-Travel-Health-Form>.
- If a person who resides out of state cannot self-quarantine because they are attending a funeral, wedding, or visiting a dying relative, etc., then they must take a COVID-19 test within 72 hours before they arrive in CT. Once they receive a negative result, they must send the negative test result to the CT Commissioner of Public Health (via email to: DPH.COVID-Travel@ct.gov or via facsimile to: (860) 326-0529).
- If the test results are not available when the person arrives in Connecticut, then they must self-quarantine until the test results are available. If the test is positive, then the person must self-quarantine until they are clear of the virus as required per CDC guidelines (<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/hcp/disposition-in-home-patients.html>). Failure to self-quarantine when required or to fill out the travel health

form is potentially punishable by a \$1,000 fine per incident. The state has already begun fining those in violation.

- These guidelines do not apply to a person that will remain in Connecticut for less than 24 hours.

If you plan on traveling to one of the Affected States, please be familiar with the new guidelines and inform the Vicar General of your travel plans beforehand. Upon your return, you will have to quarantine for 14 days. Given the requirement to quarantine, you do not need to be tested for COVID-19. If you experience COVID-19 symptoms, then please contact your primary physician, and follow his / her directives.

Since traveling to one of the Affected States will affect your ability to provide ministry in the Diocese, please collaborate with the other clergy with whom you are assigned in order to make sure a pastoral plan is in place during your quarantine. Further, the list of Affected States is changing frequently so it is your responsibility to be aware of the potential consequences of any travel.

Face Masks

In addition, on August 14, 2020 Governor Lamont issued a new executive order regarding the use of face masks. Face masks are required indoors and outdoors when social distancing is not able to be maintained. This includes attending worship services. If a person claims they do not have to wear a mask because of a medical condition, then they must provide written documentation from a licensed medical professional or state agency. Executive Order No. 7NNN is available at the following website: <https://portal.ct.gov/-/media/Office-of-the-Governor/Executive-Orders/Lamont-Executive-Orders/Executive-Order-No-7NNN.pdf>

If you have any concerns, you may address questions to Monsignor Powers or Deacon Toole.

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