



**STATE OF WASHINGTON**  
**DEPARTMENT OF CHILDREN, YOUTH, AND FAMILIES**  
1500 Jefferson Street, SE • P.O. Box 40975 • Olympia WA 98504-0975

To: Child Welfare Field Operations

From: Kwesi Booker, Assistant Secretary

RE: Travel guidance for dependent children and their caregivers

As our state continues to respond to the COVID pandemic, travel guidance and restrictions have changed. In order to ensure the health and safety of children, families, parents and caregivers, DCYF is providing this guidance for travel approvals and considerations. This memo serves as interim policy guidance related to policy 5800 – Travel and Transportation.

This memo includes:

- General travel guidance for children in out-of-home care and their caregivers
- Updates regarding travelers from countries where a new variant of the SARS-CoV-2 virus, 501Y.V, has been circulating
- Links to DCYF travel policies and resources
- Links to Safe Start Washington resources

Travel Guidance

- The regular travel approval process outlined in policy [5800. Travel and Transportation](#) and captured in the [Travel Approval Quick Reference Guide](#) continues to apply.
- Caregivers are encouraged to stay close to home and avoid non-essential travel to other regions, states or countries consistent with the [Governor's November 13, 2020 COVID-19 Travel Advisory](#)<sup>ii</sup>. Non-essential travel includes travel that is considered tourism or recreational in nature.
- Face coverings are required statewide in all public spaces. Caregivers are encouraged to review mask guidance and comply with requirements for use of face coverings. More information about face coverings is available on the [Washington State Coronavirus Response webpage](#).
- Staff and caregivers are encouraged to review the CDC's travel guidance and resources available [here](#). The website provides advice on preparing for travel as well as what to do when returning home.
- **For in-state travel**
  - Caregivers are expected to observe the [Healthy Washington Roadmap to Recovery](#) activity-based restrictions. All Washingtonians need to be aware of their county's [current phase](#) and limit travel between counties.
  - Caregivers are expected to follow the Governor's directives for the county where they live and any community they will be traveling to or in.

- **For all travel in-state and out-of-state**
  - Caregivers must be prepared to isolate and quarantine<sup>iii</sup> if they or a child becomes ill.
  - Before traveling, caregivers are encouraged to consider the isolation and quarantine requirements should someone in their family or someone they are traveling with become ill:
    - A person with COVID-19 needs to isolate for a minimum of 10 days after the onset of symptoms and until they have been fever free for 3 days.
    - Anyone who has been in close contact with someone who has COVID-19 needs to quarantine for 14 days after the last exposure.
    - Caregivers who travel by plane to a destination cannot fly home until the isolation and quarantine periods are over.
    - All air passengers coming to the United States, including U.S. citizens, are required to have a negative COVID-19 test result or documentation of recovery from COVID-19 before they board a flight to the United States.
    - Caregivers who travel by car to a destination and can drive home in one day should drive home without stops other than to refuel and use the restroom.
  - Caregivers who are hosting guests should ensure that people arriving in Washington from other states or countries, including returning Washington residents, self-quarantine for 14 days after arrival. These guests should limit their interactions to the hosting caregiver's household.
  - Caregivers who are hosting guests from countries including but not limited to the United Kingdom, South Africa and other countries as identified in [this proclamation](#) must quarantine for 14 days and only engage in essential travel.
  - Caregivers must be aware of all state and local restrictions, directives and permissible activities that apply to their destination and any locales they will be traveling through to arrive at their destination. The CDC's travel planner can be a helpful resource for this purpose and is located [here](#).
  - Caregivers are strongly encouraged to avoid mixing persons from different households in the same vehicle whenever possible.
- Consider the following **when determining whether or not to approve a caregiver's travel request**:
  - The necessity of the travel and its timing
  - The travel destination and its similarity with Washington's restrictions
  - The child's needs and physical health
  - The activities the child will engage in at their destination
    - The number of households the child will visit
    - The caregiver's willingness to maintain social distancing and adherence to masking requirements

If you have question please contact Deana Morrison at: [deanna.morrison@dcyf.wa.gov](mailto:deanna.morrison@dcyf.wa.gov) or 360 999-8248.

#### Links to DCYF Travel Policies and Resources

- Policy 5800. Travel and Transportation
  - <https://www.dcyf.wa.gov/5000-case-support/5800-travel-and-transportation>
- Travel Approval Quick Reference Guide
  - <https://www.dcyf.wa.gov/sites/default/files/pdf/Travel-refguide.pdf>
- Child Welfare Travel Authorization Form (DCYF 03-478)
  - <http://intranet.dcyf.wa.gov:8090/drupal-8.4.0/sites/default/files/forms/03-478.docx>
- Caregiver Guidelines for Foster Childhood Activities (frequently referred to as “Prudent Parenting,” DCYF 22-533)
  - [https://www.dcyf.wa.gov/publications-library?combine\\_1=22-533&combine=&field\\_program\\_topic\\_value=All&field\\_languages\\_available\\_value=All](https://www.dcyf.wa.gov/publications-library?combine_1=22-533&combine=&field_program_topic_value=All&field_languages_available_value=All)

#### Links to Safe Start Washington Resources

- Washington State Coronavirus Response County Status and Safe Start Application Process Webpage
  - <https://coronavirus.wa.gov/what-you-need-know/county-status-and-safe-start-application-process>
- Safe Start – Washington’s Phased Reopening. A synopsis of permissible activities under the Safe Start Washington plan is included on page twelve of the document linked below
  - <https://www.governor.wa.gov/sites/default/files/SafeStartPhasedReopening.pdf>
- An overview of the restrictions that are in place from November 16 through December 14.
  - <https://www.governor.wa.gov/sites/default/files/proclamations/COVID%2019%20November%20Statewide%20Restrictions.pdf>

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<sup>i</sup> **Nonessential travel** means travel that is not related to: (1) employment in an essential business allowed to be open; or (2) essential activities of a personal nature as outlined in the original Stay Home Stay Healthy order, proclamation 20-25 (linked below). This includes obtaining necessary supplies and services for the family; engaging in activities essential for health and safety of household members (going to the doctor, picking up prescriptions, visiting a veterinarian for a household pet); caring for a family member, friend, or pet in

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another household or assisting with transportation to accomplish such activities; or engaging in outdoor exercise activities using physical distancing.

<https://www.governor.wa.gov/sites/default/files/proclamations/20-25%20Coronavirus%20Stay%20Safe-Stay%20Healthy%20%28tmp%29%20%28002%29.pdf>

<sup>ii</sup> The travel advisory issued on November 13, 2020, remains in effect as authorized in the [Governor’s Proclamation 20-83](#).

<sup>iii</sup> Please visit the CDC’s website to learn more about **isolation and quarantine**--  
<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/if-you-are-sick/quarantine.html>