



**STATE OF WASHINGTON  
DEPARTMENT OF CHILDREN, YOUTH, AND FAMILIES**

1115 Washington Street, SE • P.O. Box 40983 • Olympia WA 98504-0983

April 23, 2021

To: Child Welfare Field Operations

From: Kwesi Booker, Assistant Secretary Field Operations 

RE: REVISED COVID-19 related travel guidance for dependent children and their caregivers

In order to ensure the health and safety of children, families, parents and caregivers, DCYF is providing this COVID-related guidance for travel considerations and approvals. This memo serves as interim policy guidance related to policy 5800 – Travel and Transportation. The links contained in this memo will provide the most current information from Washington state and the CDC to support decision making.

This memo includes:

- General travel guidance for children in out-of-home care and their caregivers
- Links to DCYF travel policies and resources
- Links to CDC and Washington resources

Travel Guidance

- The travel approval process outlined in policy [5800. Travel and Transportation](#) and captured in the [Travel Approval Quick Reference Guide](#) continues to apply.
- Governor Inslee has rescinded the November 2020 Travel Advisory and he has modified the COVID-19 Travel Advisory to advise Washingtonians and those visiting Washington to comply with the [CDC's current COVID-19 travel advisory guidance](#). Note that there are separate [travel recommendations for unvaccinated people](#). Vaccines are currently not available for anyone under the age of 16.
- Caregivers are expected to observe the [Healthy Washington Roadmap to Recovery](#) activity-based restrictions. Counties will be individually evaluated every three weeks to determine their phase. Caregivers need to be aware of and follow directives related to the [current phase](#) and allowable activities for their county as well as the county they wish to travel to.
- Caregivers are expected to comply with requirements for use of face coverings consistent with their vaccination status and that of the children in their care. More information about face coverings is available on the [Washington State Coronavirus Response webpage](#).
- **For all travel in-state and out-of-state**
  - Staff and caregivers are encouraged to review the CDC's travel guidance and resources available [here](#). 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.

- Caregivers must be prepared to isolate and quarantine<sup>1</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 and fully vaccinated people, 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.
- Caseworkers should 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 any travel restrictions
  - The child's needs and physical health
  - The activities the child will engage in at their destination
  - The caregiver's willingness to maintain social distancing and adherence to masking requirements or other restrictions

Please contact Deanna Morrison at [deanna.morrison@dcyf.wa.gov](mailto:deanna.morrison@dcyf.wa.gov) or 360-999-8248 for questions.

- 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 Healthy Washington Roadmap to Recovery 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>
- Roadmap to recovery chart by Phase
  - [What's open? | Washington State Coronavirus Response \(COVID-19\)](#)

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<sup>1</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>