



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

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

July 1, 2021

TO: Child Welfare Field Operations Staff

FROM: Kwesi Booker, Assistant Secretary of Child Welfare Field Operations 

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

Governor Jay Inslee ordered a full reopening of Washington State effective June 30, 2021. In order to ensure the continued health and safety of children, families, parents and caregivers, DCYF is providing this COVID-related guidance for travel considerations and approvals. The links contained in this memo will provide access to 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](#) and [Caregiver Guidelines for Foster Childhood Activities \(frequently referred to as “Prudent Parenting,” DCYF 22-533\)](#) continues to apply.
- As specified in the [Washington Ready](#) plan issued by Governor Inslee, Washingtonians and those visiting Washington should follow [Proclamation 20-83.2](#) and the [CDC’s 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 12. This is no change from the prior guidance.
- 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, out-of-state and out of country**
 - Staff and caregivers are encouraged to review the CDC’s travel guidance and resources for [domestic](#) and [international](#) 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.
 - Caregivers must be prepared to isolate and quarantineⁱ if they or a child becomes ill.
- Caseworkers should consider the following when determining whether or not to approve a caregiver’s travel request:
 - The travel destination and any travel or activity restrictions
 - The child’s needs and physical health

- The caregiver's willingness to maintain adherence to masking or other requirements or guidance

Please contact Deanna Morrison at deanna.morrison@dcyf.wa.gov or 360-999-8248 for questions.

ⁱ 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>