COVID-19 Massachusetts Travel Order Updates – August 2020

To learn more about the Massachusetts Travel Order effective 8/1/20 click here. The travel ban does not apply to low risk states which currently includes: NY, NJ, NH, ME, VT and CT.

For a list of COVID-19 testing sites in Massachusetts, click here.

**What Does the MA COVID-19 Travel Order Mean for My Patients?**

Patients are exempt from the Travel Order for the purposes of seeking care and we are not implementing additional screening procedures for this order. However, all patients continue to be screened for both symptoms of COVID-19 and exposure to COVID-19 prior to their planned visits and again in person upon arrival.

**What Does the MA COVID-19 Travel Order Mean for Visitors Who Accompany Patients?**

As of August 1, 2020 all visitors must comply with the new Massachusetts travel order to enter a Mass General Brigham hospital or doctor’s office. Patients are also being notified that the Travel Order has led to revisions in our Visitor Policy. The updated policy requires screening for travel for visitors, and defines essential and non-essential visitors. Non-essential visitors who have traveled to areas included in the MA COVID-19 Travel Order must attest to compliance to enter Mass General Brigham premises. An exception to compliance with the Travel Order is permitted for essential visitors. All visitors continue to be screened for symptoms of COVID-19 infection, and those with symptoms are denied entry. For more information read the full policy.

Here is the most up-to-date information as it pertains to clinical research:

Participants/study partners in clinical trials (with intervention) do fall under the medical care exception and are technically allowed to come in for visits if they’re from out of state (and not from a low risk state). However, the guidance we’re receiving is to relegate that to primarily life-saving care that cannot be provided locally. Therefore, our AD clinical trials don’t fall under that category and there is a chance that the state would not think that it is appropriate for them to be seen in our facility, in which case the fines would apply.

Participants/study partners in observational studies traveling from out of state (and not from a low risk state) do not fall under the medical care exception and are NOT allowed to come in to Mass General Brigham facilities.