DATE: January 8, 2021
TO: All NBPS Staff
FROM: Heather Emsley, Executive Director, Office of Human Capital Services
RE: Massachusetts Executive Travel Order - UPDATE

On August 1, 2020, Governor Baker issued an Executive Order related to travel to/from Massachusetts. In accordance with the Travel Order and in an effort to ensure the safety of our staff, New Bedford Public Schools strongly discourages our employees from taking leisure travel to non-lower-risk destinations. New Bedford Public Schools will continue to follow all state and local orders safety guidelines relating to COVID19.

The travel order states, in part, that all individuals arriving in Massachusetts by any means or mode, including Massachusetts residents who have left the state for anything more than transitory travel, are covered by the Massachusetts travel rule. Quarantine for 10 days or produce a negative COVID-19 test result that has been administered up to 72-hours prior to your arrival in Massachusetts.

Pursuant to the Governor’s Travel Order, staff who travel out of state must quarantine for ten (10) days upon returning to Massachusetts unless they:

1. Are coming from a lower-risk state as designated by the Department of Public Health (DPH). Currently, the states designated as lower-risk are: Hawaii. The list of states designated by the Department of Health (DPH) as lower-risk is subject to change based on public health data. Please visit the Commonwealth of Massachusetts website for the most current information. [MA Travel Order](#); or

2. Can produce, on request, proof of negative test result for COVID-19 from a DPH-approved test administered from a sample taken no longer than 72 hours before your arrival in Massachusetts
Important Note: The test must be from an FDA EUA-approved molecular (PCR) test. “Rapid” tests are not accepted; or

Obtain a PCR test after your arrival back in Massachusetts, and quarantine until obtaining a negative result.

3. Meet one or more of the limited criteria for exemption under the Travel Order. 
Travel Order Exemptions.

Please note the travel exemptions include: Persons Commuting for Work or School: People who regularly commute, at least weekly, outside of Massachusetts to a fixed place to attend school or work or any person who regularly commutes, at least weekly into Massachusetts to a fixed place to attend school or work; provided that in either case, this exception applies only to and from the person’s residence and place of work or school.

While the Massachusetts Travel Order is in effect, the New Bedford Public Schools’ protocols include:

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Notification Requirements</th>
<th>Staff are required to notify their Principal and the Office of Human Capital Services of any plans to travel to a non-lower-risk state, and their plans for returning to work.</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Return to Work requirements</td>
<td>Staff members are <strong>not permitted to return to in-person work until proof of a negative PCR test</strong> is received by the Office of human Capital Services. Staff may be required to work remotely while awaiting test results.</td>
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Failure to adhere to District protocols listed above will result in disciplinary action.

On December 31st, 2020, all federally provided paid leave benefits, such as Emergency Paid Sick Leave, expired. During the quarantine period if remote work is not available you will be placed on accrued paid time off such as sick, personal, or vacation time (if applicable). If you do not have sufficient paid time off available for the length of your quarantine your leave will be unpaid.

This guidance is subject to change based on updated guidance from the CDC, DPH, or other State, Federal, or local government officials.