



MA Travel Policy Information Q&A for Childcare Providers

Q #1: When does the travel policy take effect?

A: The new [COVID-19 Travel Order](#) takes effect for anyone entering Massachusetts on or after August 1st, 2020.

Q #2: What are lower risk states?

A: Please check the MA COVID-19 Traveler website for the most [up to date list of lower-risk states](#).

Q #3: If I work in childcare or a residential program in Massachusetts, does the travel policy apply to me?

A: Yes, if you are returning to MA after traveling for [personal reasons](#) (a vacation or on personal business) to any location other than a lower-risk state, **you must complete the [MA Travel Form](#) and quarantine for 14 days or provide a negative COVID-19 test result from a test administered within 72 hours of arrival in MA.**

If you are arriving in MA *only* to perform Critical Infrastructure Worker¹ duties related to childcare or residential programming, you do not have to quarantine or produce a negative test.

Q #4: I work in childcare or a residential program in Massachusetts, but I don't live in Massachusetts, can I still go to work?

A: Yes. As long as you are only traveling from your home to your place of work and back, you can continue to commute into and work in MA.

Q #5: Can a child who lives outside of Massachusetts attend a childcare program located in Massachusetts?

A: Yes. As long as the child travels only from their home to the childcare program and back, she or he can continue to attend the childcare program.

Q: A child's parent(s) traveled to a non-lower-risk state and were not able to obtain testing before return and must quarantine for 14 days. Can the child attend childcare during that time? Can a quarantining parent drop off a child at child care?

A: Yes. The child may attend child care as long as the traveling adults are quarantining. Per the MA Travel Policy, [quarantining](#) means separating from anyone not in your travel party for 14 days and remaining in the identified quarantine location at all times unless urgent medical care is needed. Therefore, if a parent or guardian is required to quarantine, he or she may NOT drop the child off at child care.

Q #6: If a child traveled to a non-lower-risk state with his/her parents and the parents received negative COVID-19 results from tests administered within 72 hours prior to of arrival in Massachusetts, can the child attend childcare? Does the child also need a negative COVID-19 test?

¹ MA is no longer using the terms Essential Employee and Essential Worker. Instead, the term [Critical Infrastructure Workers](#) is being used as defined by the US Department of Homeland Security, Cybersecurity & Infrastructure Security Agency.



A: Yes, the child may attend childcare. No, children under the age of 10 who are traveling with an adult from their household do not need to be tested.

***Q #7:** If a child traveled to a non-lower-risk state with his/her parents and the parents were not tested before reentry to Massachusetts, can the child attend childcare?*

A: No. If the adults in a travel party cannot obtain a negative COVID-19 result from a test administered within 72 hours prior to arrival in Massachusetts, all individuals in the travel party must quarantine for 14 days.

***Q #8:** A child is arriving from out of state to attend a residential program, do they have to be tested or quarantine for 14 days? What about their parents/guardians who are dropping them off?*

A: No. Children arriving from out of state to attend a residential program are not required to provide a negative test or quarantine as they are categorized under the exemption for patients seeking or receiving medical treatment. EEC urges programs to require a negative test or quarantine whenever feasible for the child, and to maintain appropriate PPE and cleaning protocols to protect the health and safety of others in the program.