



Get the Facts: Chicago Emergency Travel Order

chicago.gov/ETO

Starting January 15, 2021, travel to states will be categorized as Yellow or Orange. Requirements for visitors and Chicago residents who travel to or from each state is listed below. **This Order applies to both Chicago residents and out-of-state visitors arriving in Chicago.**

	Travel Advisory	Required upon arrival in Chicago
Orange 15.0 to *Chicago's avg. daily cases per 100k residents	Avoid travel	10-day quarantine <i>or</i> Negative test with strict masking, social distancing and avoidance of in-person gatherings <i>or</i> Be fully vaccinated, as defined as two weeks after the second dose of a two-dose COVID-19 vaccine or two weeks after one dose of a single-dose vaccine <i>and</i> not have symptoms and maintain strict masking and social distancing
Yellow 0.0 to 15.0 avg. daily cases per 100k residents	Avoid non-essential travel	No quarantine or test required. Maintain strict masking and social distancing

FAQs

Where does the Order apply?

The Order applies to individuals arriving in the City of Chicago, while they are in the city. The city limits are defined in this [interactive map](#).

What if I am vaccinated?

Those who are fully vaccinated and have not had symptoms are exempt from the orange tier quarantine/test requirement.

How will states be designated under the Order?

A state is designated Yellow if it has a 7-day average case rate lower than 15 new COVID-19 cases/100,000 residents. A state is designated Orange if it has a 7-day average case rate equal to or greater than 15 new cases/100,000 residents.

Will the list of Yellow and Orange states change? When will it change?

The categorization of states will be updated every other Tuesday with the Order effective for those states the following Friday (three days later).

What happens if I violate the Order?

Individuals found in violation of the Order are subject to fines of \$100 - \$500 per day, up to \$7,000.



Are there travel restrictions within Illinois?

There are no travel restrictions within Illinois. However, non-essential travel to the areas of high incidence is discouraged.

What if I drove or had a connecting flight through one of the designated states but did not stay there?

The Order does not apply to any individual passing through designated states for less than 24 hours in the course of travel.

What if I traveled to a state on the list but was there for less than 24 hours?

If your final destination is a state on the designated list, then you must follow the Order, even if you are in that state for less than 24 hours. The Order does not apply if you are traveling **through** a designated state and are in the state for less than 24 hours.

What if I was in an orange state and then traveled to a yellow state before arriving in Chicago?

If you were in an orange list state, unless you are traveling through, you must follow the Order. This applies even if you spent time in a yellow list state for a period after being in the orange list state.

What if I am flying into a Chicago airport or riding a train to a Chicago station, but not staying in the city?

The Order does not apply to individuals changing planes at a Chicago airport, changing trains at a Chicago station, or traveling directly to a suburban municipality or otherwise out of the city limits. However, all individuals are expected to follow the latest [public health guidance](#) for Chicago while in the city, including in the airport terminals and railroad stations. This includes the mandate that individuals over the age of 2 wear masks or face coverings.

Does this Order apply to holiday travel?

Yes, the Order applies to all travel unless outlined in the “exemptions” tab.

When do I need to get a test?

If you are traveling to or from an orange list state, travelers must receive a negative test result no earlier than **72 hours prior to arrival in Chicago**. You can also be tested once you arrive in Chicago, however you must quarantine until you receive a negative test result. If you are traveling to a Yellow list state, you do not need to have a test or quarantine.

I don't have any symptoms. Do I still have to follow the Order?

Yes. All travelers from the designated states must follow the Order unless deemed an essential worker.

Are there any exemptions to the Order?

There are some exemptions to the Order for essential workers and commuters. Go to Chicago.gov/COVID for details.

What if I live outside Chicago but work in the city?

Individuals who live in an orange list state but regularly commute to Chicago for work can continue to do so, but should monitor their temperature and signs of symptoms, wear a face covering when in public, maintain social distancing and clean and disinfect workspaces. If commuting individuals (including



essential workers) have travel to an orange list state for personal travel, they must follow the Order. If an essential worker commuter travels to a high-risk state for work, they are exempt from the Order, but should monitor their temperature and signs of symptoms, wear a face covering when in public, maintain social distancing and clean and disinfect workspaces.

What if I live in Chicago but work in an orange list state?

Individuals who live in Chicago but regularly commute to an orange list state can continue to do so, but should monitor their temperature and signs of symptoms, wear a face covering when in public, maintain social distancing and clean and disinfect workspaces. If commuting individuals (including essential workers) have traveled to an orange list state other than their work state for personal travel, they must follow the Order. If an essential worker commuter travels to a high-risk state for work, they are exempt from the Order, but should monitor their temperature and signs of symptoms, wear a face covering when in public, maintain social distancing and clean and disinfect workspaces.