July 30, 2021 | 3:15 pm

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DECEMBER 21, 2020 | Albany, NY

Video, Audio & Rush Transcript: Governor Cuomo Announces Santa Claus Granted Department of Health Waiver to Travel to New York for Christmas

MEDIA (/KI HOLIDAY)IA0/KI CORONAVIRUS (/KEYWORDS/CORONAVIRUS)

Earlier today, Governor Andrew M. Cuomo announced that the New York State Department of Health has granted Santa Claus a waiver to travel to New York for Christmas. While DOH has granted the waiver, Santa will be required to wear a mask this year.

VIDEO of the Governor's remarks is available on YouTube here (https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ZcF8k9YFBYM&feature=youtu.be) and in TV quality (h.264, mp4) format here (https://spaces.hightail.com/receive/k1Ht3LoRR3).

AUDIO of the Governor's remarks is available here (https://soundcloud.com/nygovcuomo/santa-covid-waiver-granted-122120).

A rush transcript of the Governor's remarks is available below:

We had a request for a waiver of quarantine. We normally do not do waivers of quarantine. It's unfortunate that we're in this situation, but people from other states that have a higher infection rate, what we're dealing with the U.K. now. As I said, no state is an island, so you have to protect yourself and that's what the quarantine rules did. But we have an unusual request, but DOH has been considering it for the past few days and they have actually granted the request. Santa

Claus asked for an exception for the 14-day quarantine requirement because it would be impractical for him to be in the state and then quarantine and still get all his gifts delivered on time. DOH was flexible. They have granted the quarantine waiver, but Santa is required to wear a mask this year. I think you will still be able to recognize him even though he'll be wearing a mask because he does have a fairly distinct outfit that he wears, plus his body style is fairly distinct. So, I don't think there will be any issue in identifying Santa this year. He'll be able to do his job, but do it safely because he'll be wearing a mask. So, thank you, Dr. Zucker — I think that was a creative outcome to that waiver request.

Contact the Governor's Press Office

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