GOVERNMENT OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

ADMINISTRATIVE ISSUANCE SYSTEM

Mayor's Order 2020-110
November 6, 2020

SUBJECT: Modified Requirements Regarding Self-Quarantines, Testing, and Travel During the COVID-19 Public Health Emergency

ORIGINATING AGENCY: Office of the Mayor

By virtue of the authority vested in me as Mayor of the District of Columbia pursuant to section 422 of the District of Columbia Home Rule Act, approved December 24, 1973, Pub. L. 93-198, 87 Stat. 790, D.C. Official Code § 1-204.22 (2016 Repl.); in accordance with the Coronavirus Support Congressional Review Emergency Amendment Act of 2020, effective June 8, 2020, D.C. Act 23-328, the Public Health Emergency Authority Additional Extension Emergency Amendment Act of 2020, effective October 5, 2020, D.C. Act 23-411, and any substantially similar subsequent emergency or temporary legislation; section 5 of the District of Columbia Public Emergency Act of 1980, effective March 5, 1981, D.C. Law 3-149, D.C. Official Code § 7-2304 (2018 Repl.); section 5a of the District of Columbia Public Emergency Act of 1980, effective October 17, 2002, D.C. Law 14-194, D.C. Official Code § 7-2304.01 (2018 Repl.); section 1 of An Act To Authorize the Commissioners of the District of Columbia to make regulations to prevent and control the spread of communicable and preventable diseases ("Communicable and Preventable Diseases Act"), approved August 11, 1939, 53 Stat. 1408, D.C. Official Code §§ 7-131 *et seq*. (2012 Repl.); and in accordance with Mayor's Order 2020-045, dated March 11, 2020; Mayor's Order 2020-046, dated March 11, 2020; Mayor's Order 2020-050, dated March 20, 2020; Mayor's Order 2020-063, dated April 15, 2020; Mayor's Order 2020-066, May 13, 2020; Mayor's Order 2020-067, dated May 27, 2020; Mayor's Order 2020-079, dated July 22, 2020, and Mayor's Order 2020-103, dated October 7, 2020, it is hereby **ORDERED** that:

I. BACKGROUND

1. This Order incorporates the findings of prior Mayor's Orders relating to COVID-19.

2. Community transmission of COVID-19 remains throughout the District. The District's positive COVID-19 cases now total 17,792 District residents and tragically, 652 District residents have succumbed to COVID-19. Transmission is rising fast in most states in the United States, and is below ten cases per 100,000 persons in only a handful of states.

3. Travel to and from high risk areas states endangers the residents of the District of Columbia.

4. The widespread availability of testing makes it more feasible to use testing as a screening tool to identify COVID-19 in asymptomatic individuals for those who travel.

5. Testing must be used carefully and in conjunction with other strategies for stopping the spread of COVID-19. For instance, choose vacation spots with COVID-19 transmission rates in mind; maintain physical distance from non-household members at all times; avoid mass gatherings (currently defined as gatherings of over fifty (50) persons); wear masks whenever in the presence of someone who is not a household member, and otherwise practice recommended methods of reducing the spread of COVID-19.

6. This Order modifies requirements regarding self-quarantine, testing, and travel during the COVID-19 public health emergency.

II. REQUIREMENTS FOR VISITORS TO THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

1. **Close contacts with persons who have COVID-19.** If you are a close contact of a person with a confirmed case of COVID-19, do not travel to the District, other than to obtain medical care. This rule applies to contacts with persons who have tested for or been symptomatic of COVID-19 within the past fourteen (14) days. A negative test does not relieve potential travelers of this requirement to stay away, as COVID-19 exposure may result in infection many days after the exposure. Close contact is defined as having spent a cumulative total of at least fifteen (15) minutes in close proximity – within six (6) feet – of someone over a 24-hour period.

2. **Testing.**

   a. Except as allowed in paragraph 5 of this section, non-District residents coming from any state or country other than a low-risk jurisdiction should obtain a test for COVID-19 within 72 hours prior to arrival. A low-risk jurisdiction is one that has a running seven (7) day average COVID-19 rate below ten (10) cases per 100,000 persons. Should that test be positive, travel to the District must be postponed or cancelled. After the test, the visitor should not engage in high risk activities that increase their likelihood of exposure to COVID-19.

   b. Visitors to the District staying for more than three (3) days should limit their activities until they obtain a second negative test result, administered within three (3) to five (5) days after arrival.

   c. All persons are cautioned that a person can test negative one day and positive the next, due to a recent exposure or even one from several days prior. The incubation period of COVID-19 is fourteen (14) days.

3. **Inspection of Proof of a COVID-19 Test.**

   a. District officials engaged in COVID-19 related inspections, contact tracing, enforcement or other mitigation efforts may ask to see the negative test results. Visitors who cannot or do not provide such proof must self-quarantine for fourteen (14) days after arrival in the District.

   b. Private institutions such as universities, employers, hotels, hospitals, congregate care facilities and houses of worship may ask persons about their recent travel and may demand persons produce the above-referenced record of a negative COVID-19 test within 72 hours of arrival to the District before allowing admittance to the facility and may enforce such other rules as they deem necessary (e.g. 14-day self-quarantine period, additional COVID-19 testing) for the safety of persons in their facilities or their care.

4. **Self-monitoring.** At all times, all visitors should self-monitor for symptoms of COVID-19. If they develop a symptom, visitors must stay in their hotel or temporary accommodations, leaving only to obtain medical care or another COVID-19 test, until their test returns negative or otherwise directed by public health or medical authorities.

5. **Exceptions.** The requirements of paragraph 2 of this section are not applicable in following circumstances:

   a. Residents of Maryland and Virginia, who are coming from Maryland or Virginia, are exempt.

   b. Persons arriving in the District to carry out essential work may go to work in the District before they obtain a second test in the District, provided they do not have symptoms of COVID-19 and have not been exposed to an individual diagnosed with COVID-19 within the past fourteen (14) days. Essential workers are those performing the tasks listed in the federal Department of Homeland Security's Cybersecurity & Infrastructure Security Agency (CISA) publications. If the essential worker was called up without notice, the pre-test requirement is also lifted; if, however, the essential worker has more than one (1) week notice of their trip to the District, obtaining a test before coming is required.

   c. Travelling through a state or country does not trigger requirements to be tested or to self-quarantine, provided the individual does not engage in high risk behavior while transiting through a place that has a high rate of COVID-19 transmission.

   d. The self-quarantine and testing requirements do not apply to persons who will be in the District for less than 24 hours. Persons who regularly travel

to the District from places outside Maryland, Virginia, or a low risk state should also periodically be tested for COVID-19, even if each of their trips is less than 24 hours long.

e. Persons travelling to the District for a family emergency or a funeral need not obtain a test prior to coming if obtaining a test would be impracticable. While here, they must confine their contact with other persons to the greatest feasible extent and restrict their activities to those related to the emergency.

f. Visitors to the District are advised that by entering the District, they agree to cooperate with the District Department of Heath even after they leave the District, should they be contacted by DC Health contact tracers. By their presence, they further commit to contacting their healthcare provider, getting a COVID-19 test, and cooperating with their jurisdiction's contact tracing program if they fall sick with COVID-19 within fourteen (14) days of their departure from the District. In so doing, the DC Department of Health can be notified by their state health department.

III. TRAVEL BY DISTRICT RESIDENTS

1. Advance testing is not required before leaving the District. Except as set forth in paragraph 2 below, persons returning to the District after travelling outside the District-Maryland-Virginia area, or to any place other than a low risk state or country must either:

   a. Limit daily activities and self-monitor for fourteen (14) days upon their return; or

   b. Limit daily activities until they obtain a test for COVID-19 within three (3) to five (5) days after their return and have received a negative COVID-19 PCR test result.

2. The requirement to self-quarantine for fourteen (14) days or to obtain a negative test upon return from travel shall not apply to residents performing essential work, insofar as they are going to work., or for essential activities such as obtaining medical care, food or pharmaceuticals. This exemption does not apply to persons who have symptoms of COVID-19 or who have been exposed to an individual diagnosed with COVID-19 in the past fourteen (14) days.

3. All residents, especially those returning from travel, should continually self-monitor for symptoms of COVID-19 for fourteen (14) days after their travel, isolate, and obtain a test if they show a symptom, and cease any activity involving close contact with others until their symptoms abate and any question about having

COVID-19 is resolved.

IV. SUPERSESSION

This Order supersedes Mayor's Order 2020-081 and any prior Mayor's Order or guidance issued during the COVID-19 public health emergency to the extent of any inconsistency.

V. ENFORCEMENT

The District of Columbia reserves the right to exercise provisions of the Communicable and Preventable Diseases Act, approved August 11, 1939, 53 Stat. 1408, D.C. Official Code §§ 7-131 *et seq.*, if warranted, and to issue regulations providing for civil and criminal penalties and injunctive relief.

VI. EFFECTIVE DATE AND DURATION

This Order shall be effective at 12:01 a.m. on Monday, November 9, 2020, and shall continue to be in effect through December 31, 2020, or until the date to which the state of emergency is extended, whichever is later.

MURIEL BOWSER
MAYOR

ATTEST: _____
KIMBERLY A. BASSETT
SECRETARY OF STATE OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA