

Memo from the CEO and COS

Date: June 23, 2020

Subject: **Travel Outside of Canada**

Recently we have had some staff travel outside of Canada – typically day trips to the United States for various reasons. They are returning and wanting to come back to work, access vacation pay, access sick time etc.

We thought it important to emphasize once again that the *Quarantine Act* of Canada is very clear about what happens when you travel outside of Canada and try to return. This is especially relevant during summer “vacation time”.

<https://www.canada.ca/en/public-health/services/diseases/2019-novel-coronavirus-infection/latest-travel-health-advice.html>

Just because you personally work at a hospital in Canada does not grant you essential worker status. That is meant for a Canadian working as an essential worker in the United States and living in Canada. Claiming you work at a hospital in Canada might gain you access into the United States but the rules are clear. When you return to Canada you need to quarantine for 14 days.

There is a “loop hole” that allows people to travel by plane into the United States BUT when you return to Canada **you still need** to follow the *Quarantine Act*.

Windsor-Essex County Health Unit confirmed these federal rules and they cannot be varied locally.

If somehow you gain access to travel to the United States that is your personal choice and please recognize when you return you need to quarantine and will **not be paid for that quarantine period**. Also, even if you travel outside of Ontario do some research on implications of that travel.

<https://www.canada.ca/en/public-health/services/diseases/2019-novel-coronavirus-infection/symptoms/provincial-territorial-resources-covid-19.html>