

## **Order of the Commissioner of Health Regarding COVID-19 What City Agencies Need to Know**

### **What is the Commissioner's Order regarding COVID-19?**

On March 5, 2020 the Commissioner of the New York City Department of Health and Mental Hygiene (DOHMH) issued an Order regarding COVID-19 testing and quarantine for educators, first responders and healthcare workers who are employed by the City of New York, the New York City Department of Education, and the Health + Hospitals Corporation ("City Employees Subject to the Order").

Under the Commissioner's Order, where DOHMH determines that a City Employee Subject to the Order may present an imminent threat to the public health resulting in severe morbidity or high mortality, in accordance with accepted public health guidelines or information about the contagious period of COVID-19, the Commissioner may require the City Employee Subject to the Order to be tested for COVID-19 or, if the City Employee Subject to the Order refuses, to be quarantined.

### **How will DOHMH implement the Commissioner's Order?**

DOHMH is monitoring COVID-19 activity and will implement the Order in accordance with public health guidelines as appropriate for conditions in New York City. Beginning March 9, 2020, because of widespread transmission, where DOHMH identifies a COVID-19 case, close contact of a COVID-19 case, or other any other person who presents an imminent threat to the public health as described in the Order, DOHMH will determine whether such case, contact or other person is a City Employee Subject to the Order.

If the case, close contact or other person is a City Employee Subject to the Order, DOHMH will issue an Order of the Commissioner requiring such employee to provide written proof of COVID-19 testing to DOHMH within 24 hours or to indicate that they have declined testing and will be on home-quarantine for a period of time to be specified in the Order.

The Order will specify that such person must self-isolate at home until DOHMH receives confirmation of a negative COVID-19 test or, where the test is positive, until such time to be determined by DOHMH following review of the positive COVID-19 test. DOHMH will issue documentation to the person for submission to the applicable city agency for time and leave determinations.

Where DOHMH determines that there is a need for investigation, closure, testing or other action at the employee's work location, DOHMH will contact the agency head to arrange such activities.

### **Should my agency report information to DOHMH about employees, including employees who have traveled, have been sick or had exposure to COVID-19?**

No. DOHMH is not collecting information from agencies about city employees.

### **Are other employees of New York City required to be tested for COVID-19 or to stay home?**

All New Yorkers should stay home if they are not feeling well. Consult your health care provider. If you do not have a health care provider call 311.

Anyone with symptoms of COVID-19, which include fever, cough and/or shortness of breath should stay home until they are free of symptoms for 72 hours.

Any New Yorker who recently returned from travel in China, Iran, South Korea, Italy or Japan, should review the information on the DOHMH website about self-monitoring and how and when you can go back to work or school.