

COVID-19 Travel Restrictions and Considerations FAQ

What are the restrictions on business travel for City of Edmonton employees?

- All business travel outside of the city is strictly prohibited.
- This includes domestic travel by personal vehicle.
- These restrictions apply to all City of Edmonton employees, consultants, contracted employees, and those whose travel is funded by the City of Edmonton.
- Employees who are conducting business with third parties outside of Edmonton must do so via videoconferencing or teleconferencing (e.g. completing interviews with out-of-town recruitment candidates).

Are there any recommendations regarding personal travel?

- Alberta Health has recommended that Albertans not travel outside of the country at this time.
- **Effective March 14, 2020 employees must disclose to their supervisors if they are planning to travel outside the country contrary to the Alberta Health recommendation.**
- Failure to follow the Alberta Health recommendation will render an employee ineligible for leave with pay if quarantined outside of Canada.
- Consistent with Alberta Health requirements, all employees must self-isolate for 14 days upon returning to Alberta from outside of Canada, regardless of whether they are experiencing any symptoms. Alberta Health has outlined limited exceptions for self isolation as part of the [International Border Testing Pilot Program](#). However, the City is maintaining the requirement for 14 days of self- isolation upon return from international travel for staff prior to being able to return to work while we await data on the success of the pilot program before reviewing any potential changes for staff. Contact your supervisor to determine if working from home is a possibility.
 - Effective March 16, 2020, if an employee commences travel outside of the country, and they are not eligible to work from home during the self-isolation period, they may use banked or vacation time. If they are out of vacation or banked time, they may take leave without pay.
- Post travel self-isolation requirements for anyone returning from travel outside of Canada:

- As of January 7, 2021, the Government of Canada requires proof of a negative pre-departure (air) and will implement a 72-hour pre-arrival (land) COVID-19 test for all travellers.
- On January 29, the Government of Canada announced that in the coming weeks all individuals arriving in Canada by air are required to stay in a government-approved hotel for 3 nights and take a molecular COVID-19 test at their own cost.
- Additionally, the Government of Alberta still requires all individuals to quarantine for 14 days, even after a negative COVID-19 test upon return. .
 - The quarantine period is to be included in the approved vacation or leave without pay (LWOP) period unless the employee is able to work from home.
 - For clarity, **the 3 days in a government approved hotel must be on the employee's own time** (vacation or leave without pay), regardless of whether they are someone who is temporarily working from home.
- If symptoms commence at any time during a 14 day self-isolation period, 10 days of additional self-isolation is required from the day the symptoms commence, or until symptoms fully resolve, whichever period of time is longer.

If I decide to go on a personal vacation outside Canada, will my City's Alberta Blue Cross plan cover me if I get sick?

- Please be aware that Alberta Health Services basic provincial health plan does not cover any Out of Country travel. The City's Alberta Blue Cross plans do provide certain personal Out of Country Emergency Medical coverage, which is applicable for all permanent employees in all unions/associations, except for Amalgamated Transit Union (ATU) Main. Furthermore, if you have arranged personal travel medical and trip interruption insurance coverage separate from what the City offers to applicable permanent employees, you may wish to make sure you're adequately covered should your travel be disrupted.
- The City's Out-of-Country Emergency Medical Travel Insurance with Blue Cross will not insure or provide coverage for a medical emergency that is related to a Canadian Government travel advisory that is issued prior to their departure date. There may be coverage for a medical emergency that is unrelated to the reason for the advisory (for example, if unrelated to COVID-19), as long as none of the other exclusions apply such as a Canadian Government travel advisory or traveling against the advice of a doctor.