Dear Colleagues,

On Monday, March 1, Governor Tom Wolf announced that Pennsylvania has eliminated the testing and quarantine restrictions it previously placed on out-of-state travel, which were first introduced in November 2020. In response, the University would like to confirm what impact this has on employee travel protocols.

While we acknowledge that Pennsylvania has lifted its restrictions on out-of-state travel, the CDC continues to advise that limiting travel remains important for mitigating the spread of COVID-19. Accordingly, employees are asked to continue to limit unnecessary travel. On-campus employees must continue to submit the FalconHealth daily health screening, which will now emphasize employees’ ability to mask and maintain social distance regardless of setting. Employees who are unable to mask and distance while they are with others outside of their immediate household continue to be subject to quarantine and testing before returning to campus.

- As such, employees are expected to continue to avoid activities that will impede their ability to physically be at work as scheduled.
- For those employees who are working remotely, it is still recommended from a personal and public health standpoint that employees continue to carefully follow the above health and safety guidelines.

Additionally, Messiah’s employee travel protocols for professional travel, outlined on messiah.edu/together under the “Managing Institutional Travel” accordion, remain in place through May 15, 2021.

What will change?

- **Daily health screening question**—starting this week, employees will notice a change to the daily FalconHealth screening questions. The out-of-state travel question will be eliminated and some existing questions will be reworded to remind employees and students that they must continue to mask and distance whenever they are with others outside of their established household “bubble.”
- **No automatic quarantine for out-of-state travel**—With the elimination of Pennsylvania’s out-of-state travel restriction, there is no longer an automatic quarantine for travel across the state line *if employees are able to mask and physically distance from others the entire time*. **Note:** travel involving public transportation is challenging and may still require quarantine and additional testing if masking and distancing cannot be maintained.
The governor’s announcement emphasized that the state’s requirements for wearing masks remains in effect, and that physical distancing, frequent hand washing, and other mitigation practices should continue.

**Employee travel post-May 15, 2021**

The University’s Integration and Response Team is currently reviewing the latest CDC and Pennsylvania Department of Health guidelines, along with regional and national pandemic-related data, to assess and communicate an update to employee travel protocols post-May 15. *Employees may expect to receive more details on these late spring/summer travel guidelines by mid-April.*

Thank you for your ongoing cooperation as we navigate our semester together at Messiah.

Very appreciatively—The Messiah University Integration and Response Team