

4 more states added to NY, NJ, CT virus quarantine list

July 14 2020, by Marina Villeneuve

New York Gov. Andrew Cuomo announced four more states are on New York, New Jersey and Connecticut's quarantine list on Tuesday as governors there sought to contain the spread of COVID-19 from regions of the country where infection rates are growing.

The addition of Minnesota, New Mexico, Ohio and Wisconsin means that travelers from 22 states will be required to quarantine for 14 days upon entering New York.

The list of states that meet the travel advisory's metrics has grown each week as coronavirus cases continue to spike nationwide. Now, the quarantine requirements apply to over half of the nation's population.

Last month, the governors of New York, New Jersey and Connecticut announced a joint travel advisory that applies to any person arriving from a state with a positive test rate higher than 10 per 100,000 residents over a seven-day rolling average or a state with a 10% or higher positive rate over a seven-day rolling average.

Cuomo has warned that New York's dropping number of infections could be reversed if out-of-state travelers lead to a rise in infections.

The state's tally of confirmed COVID-19 deaths in hospitals and nursing homes is nearing 25,000 on top of 4,600 additional presumed deaths in New York City alone.

The state reported just five deaths of COVID-19 patients in hospitals and nursing homes Monday, but the percentage of people testing positive for the coronavirus ticked up to 1.5% from a level of about 1% where it had been since mid-June, and Cuomo said gatherings over the Fourth of July weekend were to blame for some of the new infections.

"It's also clear based on contact tracing that many of the new cases in New York are a result of a lack of compliance during the July 4 weekend and illustrate how quickly the virus spreads, with one party, for example, infecting more than a third of attendees," Cuomo said in a news release. "I cannot be more clear: Look at what's happening in the rest of the country—if we are not smart, if we don't wear masks and socially distance, cases will spike. No one wants to go back to the hell we experienced three months ago, so please stay vigilant."

Cuomo's office said that state and local contact tracing efforts found that just over a third of people who attended a Fourth of July weekend party in Suffolk County became infected with COVID-19.

Cuomo announced Monday that out-of-state travelers arriving in New York airports from the list of states face a \$2,000 fine and a mandatory quarantine order for failing to fill out personal information on a tracing form that New York will use to help make sure individuals are quarantined.

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