



# THE Locum Times



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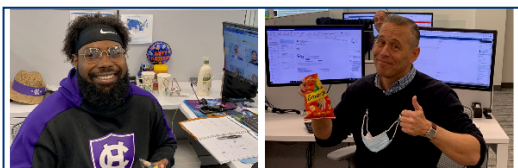
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LET'S GET SOCIAL:  
WE LIKE YOU, BUT HAVE YOU LIKED US YET?





# HOW TO TRAVEL SAFELY DURING COVID-19



While leisure travel is discouraged during the ongoing pandemic, not all travel can be avoided. For those who must travel, particularly essential healthcare workers answering the call to areas who need them, there are precautions that can help minimize risk. Due to the nature of being a healthcare provider encountering different patients, it is important to be vigilant and watch for signs of infection throughout your daily work as well as during travel in order to prevent the spread of COVID. Here are a few additional tips for safe travel:

## GET VACCINATED

For those who must travel, the first step to take is to get the COVID-19 vaccine if you are eligible. The [CDC recommends](#) waiting two weeks after getting the second vaccine dose to allow time for your body

to build protection after receiving the vaccine. For more information about the vaccine, such as who is eligible, side effects, and other materials including FAQs geared toward professionals, please visit the CDC information hub at <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/vaccines/index.html>.

## GET TESTED

The official CDC recommendation is to get tested one to three days before your travel dates and keep a copy of your negative test result with you on your trip. If you test positive, then you must not travel in order to prevent spreading the disease.

After you travel, the CDC recommends that you stay home and self-quarantine for seven days. You should also get tested again three to five days after you return from your trip. Even if you test negative, it is prudent to stay quarantined for the full seven days in order to protect others from potentially getting infected. It is also recommended

that you stay away from people who are at increased risk for a full 14 days after your travels, even if you get tested.

In the event that you test positive even though you have been vaccinated, it is recommended that you check in with your doctor on how to proceed as [this scenario is still under study](#).

## COMPLY WITH REQUIREMENTS

Before travelling, it's important to check the state and local requirements ahead of time. Some areas require negative COVID-19 tests before you travel and others may also require a period of quarantine. You can search by area on this page to find out what measures you must take: <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/travelers/travel-planner/index.html>

## BE PREPARED

When traveling, it's important to make sure you have extra supplies including spare masks, hand sanitizer, and cleaning supplies to get you through your trip. In addition to

staying well supplied, doubling up your masks or using other modifications to [improve fit and filtration](#) can offer better protection than just one mask, especially if you must share a crowded plane or pass through other high traffic areas.

Other important factors to consider when planning ahead include checking your hotel's COVID-19 policies and options that could make your stay safer. Does the hotel have special cleaning policies? Are they taking precautions in the lobby and common area that allow for social distancing or touchless options? Since you will be there for the duration of your trip, it's important to ensure that you will be comfortable and safe during your stay.

## LOOKING TO HELP FIGHT COVID?

Our team is ready to connect you with the facilities and practices that need help right now. [Get in touch with us](#) today to learn more.







# HOW DOES THE IMLC BENEFIT YOUR HEALTHCARE FACILITY?

**T**he [Interstate Medical Licensure Compact \(IMLC\)](#) has many benefits for healthcare providers, but what benefits does it offer to healthcare facilities such as hospitals and clinics? There are many advantages to utilizing physicians who have qualified for interstate compact licensure, and these can be very helpful to facilities and health systems that need to have coverage available for a variety of situations.

Here are a few of the ways the IMLC benefits hospitals, clinics, and other facilities:

## PORTABILITY

One of the top benefits of the IMLC is that it is incredibly useful for healthcare systems that cross state lines. If you have a need in a different state that is part of the Compact, it is a much simpler process to transfer an IMLC licensed physician to that facility. Many rural facilities have also been taking advantage of interstate compact licensure for similar reasons. When it is difficult to find a physician for a

rural system, physicians with IMLC licenses can easily fill in at different facilities on a temporary basis so patients can continue to receive care and the facility can continue to generate revenue.

The IMLC also makes it easier to find physicians for emergency coverage as well. When a provider is needed on short notice, coverage is more easily available thanks to licensure fast tracking, which our team can help with.

## FLEXIBILITY

In addition to the portability interstate compact licensure offer for physicians to go to physical locations, it also provides flexible solutions such as allowing physicians to perform telehealth visits

across state lines. This versatile service can be a huge help for rural facilities, for example, as it allows patients to be seen even if it is difficult to get them onsite, or if the physician cannot be at that particular facility all the time. Expanding coverage via telehealth has become a more popular option after the coronavirus struck during 2020, and many facilities have continued to take advantage of this technology to ensure continuation of patient care and the associated revenue streams.

## TRUST

Another advantage of the IMLC is that the process ensures that licensed providers are trusted physicians with clean backgrounds.





In order to qualify for the license, each provider must undergo a rigorous background screening including: proof that they attended an accredited medical school recognized by the IMLCC, completed qualifying medical licensing exams, be board certified, have no history of disciplinary actions on any medical license, have no criminal history, and not be under investigation.

### COST SAVINGS

When you work with MPLT Healthcare to get coverage for your facility, we will pay for IMLC licensing for physicians eligible under our program. This is significant because the application includes a \$700 non-refundable fee with additional costs for member state licenses. Your facility can avoid those costs by utilizing MPLT Healthcare's services, which take care of the fees for eligible physicians. We can also assist with expedited licensure for emergency coverage needs. Be sure to speak with our team to learn more about how we can cut costs for your facility.

### READY TO GET STARTED?

MPLT Healthcare is ready to assist with your coverage needs. [Get in touch with us today](#) so we can help with IMLC licensing so you can have physicians ready to work in multiple locations more quickly and efficiently.

# WHY LOCUM TENENS COVERAGE IS ESSENTIAL

If your facility or practice has never utilized locum tenens providers before, then it's more important than ever to learn why these healthcare professionals are a great resource to supplement your staff through many different scenarios. In these uncertain times, it's essential to have a backup plan in case one or more of your providers is out or your practice sees an influx of

patients. Here are just a few of the reasons why locum tenens coverage is the perfect solution to these problems.

### BE PREPARED

Locum tenens coverage can help you stay on top of staffing shortages by being prepared ahead of time. The first step to being prepared for a coverage shortage is to establish a relationship with a

locum tenens agency so you know where to turn to when you need physicians or advanced practice providers quickly. When you have an emergent coverage need, you don't want to be left trying to find a reputable staffing agency to call, so vetting and choosing the right one for your practice ahead of time is key.

You may find yourself short-staffed for many different reasons, and





these shortages can be unpredictable. What would you do if several of your staff members are out due to COVID exposure at the same time? What if you have a key physician out recovering from a surgery? Or on an early parental leave? You can have peace of mind knowing that there are locum tenens providers available to step in if any of these scenarios arise at your facility.

### GET TRUSTED PROVIDERS

There is a myth that locum tenens providers are not on the same level as full-time providers, and that could not be further from the truth. These providers are fully vetted and have the schooling, experience and credentials to match full-time providers in the same areas. There are many reasons providers choose locum tenens work, ranging from wanting a more flexible schedule, working while partially retired, to a desire to earn extra income. Locum tenens providers are available across all physician specialties and include advanced practice providers as well. Utilizing these professionals can be a great way to fill a temporary opening on your staff without undertaking a long, expensive candidate search. In addition, some locum tenens agencies also provide malpractice insurance and tail coverage, another convenience to client facilities.

### DON'T LEAVE MONEY ON THE TABLE

When there is a staffing shortage at your practice, you are leaving money on the table and potentially making things more difficult for your team. If patients cannot be seen as quickly or frequently, patient satisfaction suffers and you may not be billing as much as you could if the schedule was full. This can have a huge impact on your bottom line if a vacancy stretches out for a longer period of time. Instead of taking these losses, a locum tenens provider could step in and supplement your permanent staff while you work on filling the vacancy. A locum-to-perm option may be a solution here as well, which allows you to try out the provider to see if the role would be a good fit for the long term.

### LOOKING FOR LOCUMS?

If you have been considering utilizing locum tenens providers to augment your staff, we can help! [Get in touch](#) with MPLT Healthcare today to discuss your coverage needs and find out how we can help you find the right people for your facility or practice.

# REMEMBER TO PRIORITIZE YOUR OWN HEALTH



**P**rovider burnout has been a well-known problem for years and the pandemic has only exacerbated the issue. There are many factors at play ranging from overwhelming numbers of patients in surging areas, lack of PPE, and the physician shortage predating the coronavirus pandemic.

Healthcare professionals around the world are suffering the effects of a grueling year and unfortunately, the end is not yet in sight. While we strive for a new normal and hope things start to get easier soon, it's important to remember self-care.

## FOCUS ON YOUR NEEDS

It can be hard to take time for yourself when so much is going on, but it is essential to remember to take moments to refocus. Ask yourself when you last rested for a few minutes, or had a drink of water, or had a proper meal. If you are not caring for your own body, it will be more difficult to care for others, so it's vital that you do right by yourself even when things are tough. If you can spare a moment, taking time to step away from the grind and letting your mind rest can make a world of difference. Some people enjoy meditating for a short time, while others find it helpful to get moving with short exercises or a walk outside. Listen to music, a podcast, read for a few minutes – whatever it is that gives your mind a quick break, it can help.





## REACH OUT FOR HELP

While the pandemic has been hard on healthcare providers as a whole, some specialties and groups within the industry have [suffered burn-out disproportionately](#). It's not a sign of weakness if you are feeling stressed, depressed, or burned out right now, and it is nothing to be ashamed of if you need help. Don't suffer silently, and remember that there are people here to help you. Does your workplace have mental health resources available? An Employee Assistance Program? Some facilities are offering increased grief counseling and support after seeing many difficult cases during the pandemic as well. There are other free resources such as the [Physician Support Line](#), a free hotline offering volunteer psychiatrists ready to help. Whatever the right solution is for you, remember that there are peo-

ple ready to help and support you, people who understand what you are going through.

## TAKE BACK CONTROL

Many physicians and advanced practice providers are taking control of their schedules by changing how they structure their careers. For some people, the daily grind of a full time job or practice has simply been too much during the pandemic, so they have turned to locum tenens work instead. This style of career allows more freedom and better control of your schedule. You can structure your work in a way that allows more time for yourself, your friends and family, and your hobbies. Locum tenens jobs offer premium pay rates and come with other perks such as the chance to travel to new places and gain new experience. In addition, many locum tenens op-

portunities also mean that you will be providing your services in areas that truly need your help, which can be personally satisfying.

These are tough times right now. Even though the vaccines are getting out into the world and the pandemic is slowing down in some areas, healthcare workers have been absolutely battered by the past year. It is absolutely normal to be feeling burned out by all of this. Don't be afraid to take the necessary steps to regain control of your schedule and start feeling like yourself again.

## CONSIDERING LOCUM TENENS WORK?

If you are interested in learning more about locum tenens opportunities, [get in touch with our team](#) today.



# CASE STUDY: RAPID RESPONSE TO COVID-19

## CLIENT PROFILE

The client is one of the largest public healthcare systems in the U.S., known for providing essential care services to over one million people in New York City. The client's healthcare system has earned numerous awards including honors for quality, recognition by the Centers for Medicaid and Medicare, and awards for standards of care for diverse populations. High quality and affordable healthcare services are part of their mission to help patients live their healthiest lives and they are well known for caring for their community by providing low to no-cost health insurance to eligible people in the area.

## THE SITUATION

The client reached out to MPLT Healthcare as it became clear that the coronavirus pandemic was picking up speed in New York City. At the time, New York was seeing [around five thousand new coronavirus cases per day](#) and hospitalizations were increasing drastically. They would need at least 30 Critical Care physicians to help with COVID-19 patients in 10 different facilities throughout the city for the foreseeable future. The need was urgent, as they would need these providers to start within just 10 days. Many of the client's providers had contracted the virus, becoming ill or needing to be quarantined. Their remaining providers were working around the clock and suffering from exhaustion. With numerous travel bans in place and many providers not wanting to go to the NYC epicenter for fear of bringing the virus back to their own communities, we had our work cut out for us.

## THE SOLUTION

Our Rapid Response Team addressed the client's urgent needs through several key strategies to ensure that they would have quality COVID-19 coverage as quickly as possible:

- We guaranteed that we could present at least 30 qualified physicians to them within 48 hours of receiving their phone call.





- Our team worked around the clock, presenting a total of 75 physicians to the client for consideration. We submitted 45 of the available physicians to the client within the first 48 hours, exceeding our original guarantee for candidates.
- Our team worked strategically to target physicians who were either in the area or near enough to drive in to help. We prioritized those who had the most availability in order to give our client flexibility in coverage as the census ebbed and surged.
- In order to accommodate the urgent timing of the request, we adopted an abbreviated credentialing application for our internal process, allowing the doctors to return the paperwork quickly. This included sending the physicians a special link for their documents, narrowing the turnaround time to under 24 hours.
- We credentialed a total of 55 physicians to work at this client's facilities to ensure that there would be more than enough staff available should the city experience additional surges in COVID-19 cases or should more of the client's existing providers become infected.
- We immediately deployed 16 physicians to fill the most urgent COVID-19 coverage needs throughout all ten of the facilities. We continued to send providers over a five month period to support the client during this critical time of need.
- The licensing laws were temporarily changed due to the state of emergency in New York, allowing physicians to work on any current state medical license, so we were able to pull candidates quickly from around the country. Knowing that the licensing changes were temporary, we immediately applied for New York medical licenses for these





physicians to ensure that they would be able to continue to provide coverage should the state of emergency expire.

- We knew that our client would need timely reimbursement from FEMA in order to be able to keep so many physicians working in the city. We proactively reached out to the client's Chief Operating Officer and their Accounts Payable Department to review the FEMA guidelines at length and then made extensive revisions to our billing processes in order to support the documentation needed by the client for swift reimbursement.
- Early in the pandemic, many hotels shut down, while others were offering free hotel rooms for the physicians who were coming in town to help. Some airlines were also offering free flights for providers. Our Travel Department worked diligently to coordinate and organize available resources in order to minimize costs for the client and make sure these essential healthcare workers would have proper accommodations during the shelter in place order.
- Staffing needs were decentralized, with two main points of contact at each of the 10 facilities. Our team coordinated with the 20 different contacts to ensure optimal coverage and help anticipate when and where they might have a surge in cases so we could deploy our physicians accordingly.

### THE MPLT WAY

Throughout our partnership with this client, the team at MPLT Healthcare went above and beyond to ensure that each facility within the system would have the coverage that they needed. We understood the urgency of the situation and were ready to partner with our client and assist on the front lines of the pandemic during an unprecedented public health emergency.

The qualified physicians that MPLT sent to New York City were well received and made a positive impact on the community. These providers completely understood the gravity of the situation and they had the experience needed to arrive on site and immediately hit the ground running. Some of the physicians have since stayed on at the facilities to continue serving the community.

It was a great victory for our team to be able to not only meet, but exceed, the client's request for Critical Care coverage during a time when doctors were in such short supply throughout much of the country. Because the client now had enough staff to manage their caseload, their facilities were able to open additional ICU floors, allowing them to accommodate even more of the community's sickest residents.



# MPLT HEALTHCARE IN THE COMMUNITY



## UGLY SWEATER PARTY

Our annual holiday festivities include an ugly sweater contest. Check out these favorites!

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## NATIONAL POPCORN DAY

We celebrated National Popcorn Day with treats! This is just one of our fun monthly celebrations to promote our world-class company culture. Tune into our social media accounts to see what else we have been up to!

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## KICKOFF

We recently had our annual Kickoff event to start the year off! It was a little different this time around since we did most of the event virtually, but it was still a great way to get the team pumped up for another successful year. Here are a few of our award winners – congratulations, team!

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## BLOOD DRIVE

We teamed up with OneBlood for another successful blood drive! Thank you to everyone who gave blood to help save lives. Go to <https://www.oneblood.org> to find out how you can help out too.



# HOT JOBS

## JOB ALERTS

Sign up for our Job Alerts and get new job openings delivered straight to your inbox or smartphone.

### PULM/CC

Florence, SC

### UROLOGY

Laurinburg, NC

### CARDIOVASCULAR CRITICAL CARE

Orlando, FL

### HEMATOLOGY ONCOLOGY

Las Cruces, NM

### GASTROENTEROLOGY

New Castle, IN

### GASTROENTEROLOGY

Lewiston, ME

### VASCULAR SURGERY

Memphis TN

### UROLOGY

Washington, NC

### CARDIOTHORACIC SURGERY

Pocatello, ID

### OB/GYN

Plainsboro, NJ

### MFM

Scottsdale, AZ

### OB/GYN

Mid-Atlantic / Delaware

### NEONATOLOGY

Fort Worth, TX

### DEVELOPMENTAL RADIOLOGY

Minneapolis, MN

### PEDIATRIC ANESTHESIA

Cincinnati, OH

### ADULT OP PMHNP

Hudson Valley, NY

### PSYCHIATRIST C/A IP

Biloxi, MS

### NEURO-HOSPITALIST

Osage Beach, MO

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