MEDIA TALKING POINTS

U.S. TRAVEL MEDIA HOLDING STATEMENT (AS OF FEBRUARY 28, 2020 | 12:00 P.M. ET)

“We appreciate the aggressive response to coronavirus by the entirety of the U.S. government, and we are hopeful that the collective effort will continue to keep the risk of coronavirus in the U.S. to a minimum and enable American life and commerce to go on unimpeded—as health experts have repeatedly emphasized should currently be the case.

We will continue to closely engage the administration in the event official guidance must change based on evolving scientific data.

The president is absolutely right that the United States is the ‘best tourism country in the world.’ The American travel community stands ready to do its part to see this moment of public health concern behind us with an absolute minimum of impact on the health of both Americans and the American economy.”

-Roger Dow, President and CEO, U.S. Travel Association

TALKING POINTS FOR USE WITH MEDIA (AS OF FEBRUARY 28, 2020) | 12:00 P.M. ET

- The challenge in moments of public health concern is to react properly to the situation, but not to overreact. The travel industry’s guiding principle is to seek and heed the most up-to-date expert guidance, and we urge the traveling public to do the same.
- The White House on Wednesday [2/26] announced an all-government coordinated response to coronavirus led by Vice President Pence.
- The U.S. travel community has listened intently to the latest guidance from HHS and DHS officials regarding the possibility of COVID-19 spreading within the United States, and will continue to engage health and security authorities on any planned or anticipated coronavirus-related measures that would impact travel.
- The White House specifically said that it considered, but discarded, further travel restrictions as unneeded at this time based on the current scientific data.
- The travel restrictions currently in place on the advice of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) are specific to China:
  - Any foreign national who has been in China in the last 14 days may not enter the U.S.
  - American citizens and permanent residents who have been in China in the past 14 days will be allowed to enter the United States, but will be redirected to one of 11 airports to undergo health screening. Depending on their health and travel history, they will have some level of restrictions on their movements for 14 days from the time they departed China.
  - Additionally, the U.S. State Department has advised U.S. citizens to “exercise increased caution” when considering travel TO South Korea or Japan; however, there are no additional protocols for travel FROM those countries.
- With the situation evolving rapidly, we encourage the traveling public to follow any guidance offered by the CDC and local and state public health authorities.
- U.S. health officials are urging the same personal best practices that are standard for a typical flu season—frequent washing of hands, etc.
- We are concerned for people all over the world who are affected by this health challenge, and we are hopeful for a swift resolution that keeps American residents as well as visitors to America safe and secure.