ABOUT COVID-19

COVID-19: GET THE FACTS

- COVID-19, also referred to as ‘coronavirus,’ is a respiratory illness that was first detected in the Hubei province city of Wuhan, China, in late December 2019
- Symptoms include: fever, cough and difficulty breathing
- The virus can be spread via person-to-person contact
- Travelers should strongly adhere to healthy travel practices, similar to recommendations associated with the U.S. flu season: wash hands often, cough into your elbow and sneeze into a tissue, avoid contact with people who may already be sick, etc.
- For more information guidance, visit the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) [coronavirus (COVID-19) website](https://www.cdc.gov)

CDC RISK LEVEL FOR AMERICANS

The immediate risk of being exposed to this virus is still low for most Americans, but as the outbreak expands, that risk will increase. Cases of COVID-19 and instances of community spread are being reported in a growing number of states. Source: [CDC](https://www.cdc.gov)

CDC TRAVEL GUIDANCE

- For the latest, visit CDC’s [COVID-19 Information for Travel](https://www.cdc.gov)
- China: Level 3, Avoid Nonessential Travel (last updated February 22)
- South Korea: Level 3, Avoid Nonessential Travel (last updated February 25)
- Italy: Level 3, Practice Enhanced Precautions (last updated February 25)
- Iran: Level 3, Practice Enhanced Precautions (last updated February 28)
- Europe: Level 3, Practice Enhanced Precautions (last updated March 14)
- Global Outbreak Notice: Level 2, Special Precautions for High-Risk Travelers
- CDC recommends travelers, particularly those with underlying health issues, defer all cruise ship travel worldwide
- The Department of State has [issued](https://travel.state.gov) a Global Level 3 Health Advisory: Reconsider Travel for U.S. citizens with plans to travel abroad
- While there are no specific restrictions for travel within the U.S., you should monitor recommended travel guidance on [cdc.gov](https://www.cdc.gov)
MARCH

- **Mar. 14:** Vice President Pence announced that all travel from Ireland and the U.K. will be suspended, effective midnight on Mar. 16

- **Mar. 13:** President Trump issued a national emergency declaration under the Robert T. Stafford Act. This action unlocks $42 billion in federal resources from the Disaster Relief Fund (DRF), which the Federal Emergency Management Agency can use to support a coordinated national disaster response plan with state and local governments

- **Mar. 13:** DHS directs Americans returning from all restricted countries (Schengen Area, China and Iran) will now be required to travel through only 13 airports

- **Mar. 11:** President Trump announced restrictions on travel from Europe (known as the Schengen Area that discludes the U.K. and Ireland) to the U.S. to take effect on Mar. 13 for 30 days

- **Mar. 8:** CDC updated guidance for older adults and travelers with underlying health issues to avoid situations that put them at increased risk

- **Mar. 6:** President Trump signed the $8.3 billion funding package put forth by Congress

- **Mar. 2:** During a press conference, Vice President Pence said that ‘there has been no recommendation against any limitations on travel within the United States... the risk to the American public remains low’

- **Mar. 2:** The U.S. expanded travel restrictions from Iran and heightened a travel advisory for certain regions of South Korea and Italy. Additional screening procedures are being implemented for people traveling from ‘high risk countries’

FEBRUARY

- **Feb. 26:** President Trump and health officials held a press conference where he said the risk to Americans ‘remains very low.’ When asked about the impact on travel, the president responded that Americans will ‘travel to places we have’ stating America is ‘the greatest tourism country in the world’

- **Feb. 25:** Following pre-scheduled budget hearings in the U.S. Senate, CDC announced that the American public should prepare for a possible pandemic outbreak in the U.S.

- **Feb. 22/23:** Italy, Iran, Japan and South Korea reported significant increases in the number of confirmed cases

- **Feb. 11:** WHO announced an official name for the disease: COVID-19

- **Feb. 6:** The U.S. Department of Defense identified military installations that can provide housing for quarantined passengers traveling to or returning to the U.S. through the airports screening for the coronavirus from China. U.S. citizens who have been in mainland China will be screened at these airports for risk and evidence of symptoms to ensure they receive medical care. If needed, potentially affected individuals may be government-quarantined or self-quarantined
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TIMELINE OF EVENTS (CONTINUED)

- **Feb. 3:** U.S. airlines suspend most U.S.-China flights
- **Feb. 2:** DHS directs all flights from China and all passengers who have traveled to China within the last 14 days to be routed through one of eight U.S. airports, adding three additional airports on Feb. 3
- **Feb. 2:** The United States government temporarily suspended entry of foreign nationals who have traveled to China within the past 14 days
  - U.S. citizens, residents and their immediate family members who have been in Hubei province and other parts of mainland China are allowed to enter the United States, but they are subject to health monitoring and possible quarantine for up to 14 days

JANUARY

- **Jan. 30:** The World Health Organization determined the rapidly spreading outbreak constitutes a Public Health Emergency of International Concern
- **Jan. 17:** CDC began enhanced screening at three U.S. airports that receive high traffic from China
  - U.S. citizens who have been in mainland China will be screened at these airports for risk and evidence of symptoms to ensure they receive medical care. If needed, potentially affected individuals may be government-quarantined or self-quarantined