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) webpage

CDC Risk Level for Americans

The risk to the American community remains low. There are no restrictions on travel anywhere within the United States, though older adults and travelers with underlying health issues should avoid situations that put them at increased risk.

CDC Travel Guidance

- For the latest, visit CDC’s COVID-19 Information for Travel
- China: Level 3, Avoid Nonessential Travel (last updated February 22)
- South Korea: Level 3, Avoid Nonessential Travel (last updated February 25)
- Japan: Level 2, Practice Enhanced Precautions (last updated February 22)
- Hong Kong: Level 1, Practice Usual Precautions (issued February 19)
- Italy: Level 3, Practice Enhanced Precautions (last updated February 25)
- Iran: Level 3, Practice Enhanced Precautions
- Travelers should reconsider cruise ship voyages into or within Asia at this time
**ABOUT COVID-19**

**TIMELINE OF EVENTS**

**MARCH**
- **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
- **Feb. 3:** U.S. airlines suspend most U.S.-China flights
- **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. The total airports with enhanced screening has risen to a total of 20 airports
  - 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