

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, shortness of breath or difficulty breathing, chills, repeated shaking with chills, muscle pain, headache, sore throat and new loss of taste or smell
- All 50 states and more than 150 countries worldwide now have reported cases of COVID-19
- The virus is spread via person-to-person contact
- For more information guidance, visit [coronavirus.gov](https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus)

CDC RISK LEVEL FOR AMERICANS

Close contacts of those who are infected and people in places where ongoing community spread of COVID-19 has been reported are at elevated risk of exposure, with the level of risk dependent on the location. Based on current information, older adults and people of any age with underlying medical conditions have a higher risk for severe illness from COVID-19. ([CDC](https://www.cdc.gov))

CDC TRAVEL GUIDANCE

- The COVID-19 outbreak in U.S. is a rapidly evolving situation. The status of the outbreak varies by location and state and local authorities are updating their guidance frequently. The [White House’s Opening Up America Again](#) plan means some parts of the country may have different guidance than other areas. Check with the [state or local authorities](#) where you are, along your route, and at your planned destination to learn about local circumstances and any restrictions that may be in place.
- For the latest, visit CDC’s [COVID-19 Information for Travel](#)
- Level 3, Avoid non-essential travel. Restrictions on entry to the U.S.: [China, Iran, United Kingdom and Ireland, most European Countries](#) (April 28)
- CDC recommends that travelers avoid all nonessential travel to all global destinations. Learn more from the [Global Pandemic Notice](#)
- For a comprehensive list of travel alerts visit [cdc.gov/travel/notices](https://www.cdc.gov/travel/notices)
- The Department of State has [issued](#) a Global Level 4 Health Advisory: Do Not Travel (March 31)

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TIMELINE OF EVENTS

APRIL

- **Apr. 27:** Numerous bipartisan U.S. Senators signed onto a [letter](#) urging congressional leaders to expand relief to 501(c)(6) organizations in forthcoming legislation.
- **Apr. 24:** President Trump signed the Paycheck Protection Program and Health Care Enhancement Act, freeing up \$484 billion for small businesses, workers, additional COVID-19 testing, and hospitals.
- **Apr. 16:** More than 80 bipartisan U.S. House members signed onto a [letter](#) urging congressional leaders to provide relief for destination marketing organizations.
- **Apr. 16:** The Small Business Administrations's Paycheck Protection Program and Economic Injury Disaster Loans exhausted the funds provided by the CARES Act.
- **Apr. 16:** The White House released new [presidential guidelines](#) for opening up America again.
- **Apr. 16:** U.S. Travel submitted comments and questions to the Department of Treasury regarding key Federal Reserve relief programs. The full document can be viewed [here](#).
- **Apr. 15:** Roger Dow joined travel industry executives from the [White House Economic Task Force](#) on a conference call with President Trump to discuss the rebuilding of America.
- **Apr. 10:** The Federal Reserve and Treasury released clarifications and guidance for the Exchange Stabilization Fund and Paycheck Protection Program (PPP).
- **Apr. 10:** U.S. Travel released an updated list of urgent [policy requests](#) aimed to combat unprecedented travel industry job and revenue losses.
- **Apr. 9:** The CDC extended the No Sail Order for cruise ships in the U.S. [Details on the new guidance](#).
- **Apr. 8:** Executives from nearly 600 destination marketing organizations sent a joint letter to Senate Leaders McConnell, Schumer, and House Speaker Pelosi and GOP Leader McCarthy requesting amendments to the CARES Act expand coverage to 501(c) organizations and local travel-related quasi-governmental organizations.
- **Apr. 2:** U.S. Travel, American Hotel & Lodging Association, Asian Hotel Owners Association and International Franchise Association sent a [letter](#) to the Department of Treasury and the Small Business Administration asking for clarification on numerous relief policies.

MARCH

- **Mar. 31:** U.S. Travel, in partnership with the American Hotel & Lodging Association, Asian Hotel Owners Association and International Franchise Association, submitted a [letter](#) to the Department of Treasury and the Federal Reserve requesting that they establish programs to provide immediate relief to travel-dependent organizations.
- **Mar. 31:** The White House released new 30 day guidelines titled, "[30 Days to Slow the Spread](#)", which

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As of: April 28, 2020, 9:30 a.m. ET

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TIMELINE OF EVENTS (CONTINUED)

details increased preventative measures to slow the spread of COVID-19 through the end of April.

- **Mar. 29:** President Trump extends social distancing guidance until the end of April.
- **Mar. 27:** President Trump signed the CARES Act into law just hours after the House of Representatives passed the massive package by an overwhelming voice vote.
- **Mar. 25:** The White House and Senate reached an agreement on a \$2 trillion stimulus package. The Senate successfully voted 96-0.
- **Mar. 23:** President Trump announced an extension to the REAL ID deadline during a press conference. U.S. Travel recommended that the delay remain in place until the current economic environment improves and it is certain air traffic will not be negatively affected.
- **Mar. 20:** More than 6,000 travel organizations send a joint letter to Senate Leaders McConnell, Schumer, and House Speaker Pelosi and GOP Leader McCarthy, requesting immediate and aggressive Congressional action to provide relief for the travel industry and its workers
- **Mar. 19:** The Power of Travel Coalition's Action Alert campaign launched. To date, 2,000+ travel workers and businesses have let Congress know how COVID-19 is affecting their livelihoods
- **Mar. 18:** U.S. Travel released Proposal for Travel Workforce Protection and recovery policies
- **Mar. 17:** U.S. Travel Association President and CEO Roger Dow, along with American Hotel & Lodging Association President and CEO Chip Rogers and multiple hotel executives, met with President Trump, Vice President Pence and Commerce Secretary Ross to discuss the impact of coronavirus on America's travel industry and a disaster relief package to help support the millions of travel workers and businesses—83% of which are small business—affected by these incredible circumstances
- **Mar. 16:** During a press conference, President Trump released updated guidance to slow the spread of coronavirus, including guidance to avoid non-essential travel and group gatherings of more than 10 people
- **Mar. 15:** CDC, in accordance with its [guidance for large events and mass gatherings](#), recommends that for the next 8 weeks, organizers (whether groups or individuals) cancel or postpone in-person events that consist of 50 people or more throughout the United States
- **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

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TIMELINE OF EVENTS (CONTINUED)

- **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. The WHO officially characterized the COVID-19 outbreak as a global pandemic
- **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:** 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

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TIMELINE OF EVENTS (CONTINUED)

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