

CBP Topline and FAQs on 2019-nCov
UPDATED: February 25, 2020

Topline Messaging

- U.S. Customs and Border Protection continues to facilitate the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention’s (CDC) enhanced health screening of travelers entering or attempting to enter the United States with a nexus to Wuhan or with recent travel to China due to the outbreak of novel coronavirus (nCoV).
- This enhanced health screening is for symptoms specifically related to the novel coronavirus and is conducted by CDC personnel upon a traveler’s arrival.
- On January 31, 2020, the President of the United States signed a Presidential Proclamation entitled: “Suspension of Entry as Immigrants and Nonimmigrants of Persons Who Pose a Risk of Transmitting 2019 Novel Coronavirus.”
- Effective February 2, 2020, 5 p.m. EST, the Proclamation restricts and suspends the entry into the United States, as immigrants or nonimmigrants, of certain aliens who were physically present within the People’s Republic of China, excluding the Special Autonomous Regions of Hong Kong and Macau, during the 14-day period immediately preceding their entry or attempted entry into the United States.
- CBP continues to facilitate CDC’s enhanced health screening at U.S. ports of entry. Consistent with CBP’S procedures, and in accordance with the Presidential Proclamation, individuals encountered by CBP with a nexus to China within 14 days of the encounter or with symptoms of illness are referred to CDC or local health officials for additional health screening.

Q&A

Q. Is CBP screening travelers? And what is the process travelers will encounter when they get off the airplane?

A. No. CDC personnel are responsible for the enhanced health screening of travelers in all locations. CBP is working with the CDC to identify arriving travelers who have been in Hubei province or mainland China within the previous 14 days, as they require enhanced health screening. Those travelers are identified by CBP officers during their primary inspection and are referred for secondary screening where CDC personnel conduct the enhanced health screening. CDC makes any determination from there as to whether any additional measures must be taken.

Q: How does CBP identify travelers who need additional screening?

A: CBP officers use a combination of traveler history records, officer questioning and observation, and self-declarations to identify individuals requiring additional health screening.

Q: Will individuals denied entry under the Presidential Proclamation be permitted to withdraw their application for admission?

A: Individuals arriving at a land port of entry who are denied entry under the proclamation may be allowed to withdraw their application for admission, at the discretion of the CBP officer.

Q. What protective measures are being taken?

A. Consistent with existing procedures to prevent the spread of communicable disease, travelers identified with symptoms may be provided with a mask and referred to CDC or EMS personnel for additional health screening.

CBP has issued guidance to all employees that outlines the current comprehensive use of Personal Protective Equipment including guidance regarding wearing masks in the appropriate circumstances (using a risk-based approach).

Q. Are you expanding screening to land ports of entry or other airports?

A: All CBP ports of entry are following the same operational guidance as issued by the Presidential Proclamation and the Department of Homeland Security.

With exceptions specified in the Proclamation, foreign nationals (other than immediate family of U.S. citizens, permanent residents, and flight crew) who have been physically present in China within 14 days of their arrival at a U.S. port of entry will be denied entry into the United States.

Additionally, any traveler exempted from the Proclamation who has been in Hubei province or anywhere in mainland China within 14 days of their return will be referred to CDC for additional health screening.

Q: Is this being expanded to Border Patrol?

A: Consistent with existing CBP procedures, individuals apprehended by U.S. Border Patrol between the ports of entry with symptoms of illness are referred to CDC or local health officials for additional health screening.

Additionally, all persons in U.S. Border Patrol custody who meet the CDC's coronavirus travel history and enhanced screening guidelines are being referred to CDC for additional screening.

Q. Are flights being re-routed or funneled into specific locations?

A. Yes, travelers flying into the U.S. who have been physically present in China (excluding Hong Kong and Macau) within the last 14 days will be re-routed through one of the following airports:

- John F. Kennedy International Airport (JFK), New York
- Chicago O'Hare International Airport (ORD), Illinois
- San Francisco International Airport (SFO), California
- Seattle-Tacoma International Airport (SEA), Washington
- Daniel K. Inouye International Airport (HNL), Hawaii
- Los Angeles International Airport, (LAX), California
- Hartsfield-Jackson Atlanta International Airport (ATL), Georgia
- Washington-Dulles International Airport (IAD), Virginia
- Newark Liberty International Airport (EWR), New Jersey

- Dallas/Ft. Worth International Airport (DFW), Texas
- Detroit Metropolitan Airport (DTW), Michigan

<https://www.dhs.gov/news/2020/02/02/dhs-issues-supplemental-instructions-inbound-flights-individuals-who-have-been-china>

Q. What happens if a carrier cannot make a determination as to whether to board a passenger?

A. Through the Immigration Advisory Program and Regional Carrier Liaison Groups, CBP assesses electronic passenger information and passenger reservation data to provide air carriers with boarding recommendations, but the carriers are ultimately responsible for identifying passengers subject to current travel restrictions to the United States.

Q: How many flights have arrived since the new travel restrictions went into place and how many travelers have been referred for additional screening?

A: Statement attributable to a CBP official:

“CBP continues to actively work with its partners to identify and refer individuals arriving to the U.S. requiring additional health screening in accordance with the Presidential Proclamation and supplemental guidance issued by DHS. Specific data or details on flight arrivals, travelers referred to CDC or individuals deemed inadmissible under the new travel restriction is not available at this time due to operational sensitivities and because information such as flight schedules and arriving passenger data changes rapidly.”

Q: Is there any impact on Trade/Cargo screening?

A: CBP continues to process cargo at its normal rate as there has been no identified threat as it relates to cargo shipments. Vessels or embarked crewmembers or passengers that have recently been in China will have their arrivals fully vetted to safeguard the American public yet facilitate trade. This safety protocol is not anticipated to slow down the movement of cargo.

Refer to CDC or USCG for any additional information.

Q: Has CBP deployed additional staff to the 11 airports receiving arriving flights?

A: Not at this time.