



Coronavirus (COVID-19) Talking Points

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At this time, no federal restrictions are in place to prevent meetings and travel within the United States.

Guidance on Upcoming Conferences, Conventions, Trade Shows and Exhibitions

- As of now, the Meetings Mean Business Coalition (MMBC) encourages continued participation in meetings in the U.S. Of note: some companies and city leaders have announced internal travel restrictions, which vary on a case-by-case basis, and primarily involve international meetings.
- With the situation evolving rapidly, we urge meeting organizers, participants and vendors to consult the latest guidance from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and local public health authorities as they prepare for upcoming conferences, conventions, trade shows and exhibitions.
- For our part, we will continue to engage health and security authorities on any planned or anticipated measures that may impact travel.
- We understand the months – even years – of work that precede a major meeting. We also recognize the incredible benefits that these gatherings bring to people, businesses and the economy – especially in cities that rely on travel to sustain themselves.
- We applaud industry professionals who are managing as best they can through this unfortunate and unanticipated situation. Our hope is that travelers continue to exercise healthy meeting habits and that some reassurance is granted to those hosting and attending meetings in unaffected areas during this time.

The Industry's Response

- We applaud the tireless work of meeting and travel professionals who are helping to keep travelers safe.

- We expect the influx of questions and need for resources to remain steady, particularly for frontline meeting and travel employees. In addition to providing updates and coordinating with emergency responders from the health and safety community, we are committed to providing tailored resources and communications assistance to meeting and event planners.
- In partnership with U.S. Travel and our other industry partners, MMBC is helping to address misinformation and popular misconceptions about business travel in the news and on social media. Our goal is to ensure facts about the coronavirus are understood and that everyone is exercising healthy travel habits.

Fast Facts on Restricted Travel

- The travel restrictions that have been put in place on the advice of the 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 U.S., 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 left China.
- 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.
- Currently, health officials are recommending the same personal best practices that are standard for a typical flu season (e.g., frequent hand washing).

Sources: Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, U.S. State Department, U.S. Travel Association and Meetings Mean Business