

U.S. CITIZEN FACT SHEET - February 20, 2020

Travel Restrictions Impacting Passengers and Crew from the *Diamond Princess*

On February 19 (Tokyo time), the U.S. Department of State and the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) notified all U.S. passengers and crew on the *Diamond Princess* that they will be restricted from entering the United States for at least 14 days or, if they have tested positive for the virus, until their recovery is documented. These actions and recommendations are due to their potential exposure to COVID-19 while on the *Diamond Princess*.

How does the restriction work?

At CDC's request, the U.S. Department of Homeland Security, has placed the names of all U.S. *Diamond Princess* passengers and crew on a federal list that will temporarily restrict their ability to travel inbound to, outbound from, or within the United States.

Individuals on this list will not be issued a boarding pass at the airport, nor will they be allowed to board a flight inbound to, outbound from, or within the United States for at least 14 days following disembarkation or, in the case of passengers or crew who have tested positive for the virus, until the CDC determines that they have recovered. If individuals on the list travel to Mexico or Canada and attempt to enter the United States through a land port of entry or a seaport, they will be stopped by U.S. Customs and Border Protection and CDC will be notified.

How long will the restriction last?

This travel restriction will remain in place for at least 14 days after passengers and crew have disembarked from the *Diamond Princess* **if they have never tested positive for the virus**. CDC will follow up with all U.S. passengers and crew to provide guidance on health monitoring during this period, as well as the steps necessary to be removed from the list after at least 14 days have elapsed since they left the ship.

U.S. passengers and crew who **have tested positive for the virus at any point** will need to be medically cleared by the hospital, and documentation provided to CDC, to be allowed to travel. Detailed testing instructions have been provided to hospitals.

CDC will notify U.S. passengers and crew when their restriction has been lifted.

Which passengers will be affected by these restrictions?

These restrictions apply to all U.S. passengers and crew (except for those that took the two State Department-charted flights to the U.S.) who have been on the *Diamond Princess* during its most recent voyage. As noted above, the restrictions are temporary in nature.

What Precautions Should People Visiting Family or Friends Hospitalized with COVID-19 Take to Protect Themselves from Exposure?

People who have family and friends in the hospital with COVID-19 should follow the hospital's infection control and visitor policies. In general, the CDC recommends avoiding being in the room with patients hospitalized with COVID-19 and using alternative mechanisms such as video-call applications. Visitors in the same room with hospitalized patients with COVID-19 should use personal protective equipment (PPE) in accordance with the hospital's infection control policy. Visitors should not be in the room for aerosol-generating procedures such as sputum induction and suctioning. Hospital visitors should perform hand hygiene using alcohol-based hand sanitizer (60-95% alcohol) before and after all patient contact, contact with potentially infectious material, and before putting on and immediately after removal of PPE. If hands are visibly soiled, use soap and water before returning to alcohol-based hand sanitizer.

What assistance is available to affected U.S. citizen passengers?

We remain committed to our vital mission of protecting the welfare of U.S. citizens overseas, driven by the most up-to-date risk assessments by U.S. health authorities. We extend our thanks to the Government of Japan for their invaluable collaboration and longstanding commitment to protect the welfare of our U.S. citizen community in Japan. Our U.S. Embassy team here in Tokyo is working tirelessly to assist U.S. citizens in Japan affected by the outbreak, including all those who have been on the *Diamond Princess*. We acknowledge that these passengers and crew have experienced an extremely challenging ordeal and will provide them all possible consular assistance to ensure they remain informed and have the support they need until they are able to return home.