

## International Student & Scholar Services – March 22, 2020 Update

### Advising

In supporting the university's response to the evolving COVID-19 virus situation, ISSS is using remote advising to support you. Please submit open advising questions by email to [iss@colostate.edu](mailto:iss@colostate.edu). An ISSS advisor will be closely monitoring incoming messages and will answer questions as quickly as possible. If an ISSS advisor calls you, please note that the incoming call will read "Restricted Number" since this is a member of the staff calling from their personal phone.

### Travel

It's critical that if you have upcoming travel plans, you stay up-to-date with entry restrictions because they have the potential to change quickly. While there may not currently be restrictions on travel to or from your travel destination, there is the distinct possibility that further restrictions could be put into place.

Any international travel while this situation is evolving involves some risk. We encourage you to gather as much information as possible, assess the risk in your travel situation and determine how to proceed.

### **U.S. Consular and Visa Services**

#### **Consular and visa services announcements**

On March 18, [travel.state.gov](http://travel.state.gov) (U.S. Department of State Bureau of Consular Affairs Visa Office) [posted the following news alert](#):

- **"In response to worldwide challenges related to the outbreak of COVID-19, the Department of State is suspending routine visa services in most countries worldwide.** Embassies and consulates in these countries will cancel all routine immigrant and nonimmigrant visa appointments as of March 18, 2020. Check the website of the embassy or consulate for its current operating status. As resources allow, embassies and consulates will continue to provide urgent and emergency visa services.
- These Embassies will resume routine visa services as soon as possible but are unable to provide a specific date at this time. Although all routine immigrant and nonimmigrant visa appointments are cancelled, the MRV fee is valid and may be used for a visa appointment in the country where it was paid within one year of the date of payment.
- This does not affect the visa waiver program.
- Services to U.S. citizens continue to be available. More information is available on the [Embassy's website](#).
- Applicants with an urgent matter and need to travel immediately should follow the guidance provided at the Embassy's website to request an emergency appointment."

A similar message was tweeted and posted on [its Facebook page](#):

"In response to worldwide challenges related to the outbreak of COVID-19, the Department of State is suspending routine visa services in most countries worldwide. Embassies and consulates in these countries will cancel all routine immigrant and nonimmigrant visa appointments as of March 18, 2020. These embassies and consulates will resume routine visa services as soon as possible, but we are unable to provide a specific date at this time. Check the website of the embassy or consulate for its current operating status: [usembassy.gov](http://usembassy.gov).

Services to U.S. citizens will continue at U.S. embassies and consulates overseas, but the availability of these services may be limited. Check the website of an individual embassy or consulate to determine their operating status and find emergency contact information."

To find embassy or consulate websites, go to <https://www.usembassy.gov/>. The embassy links get you to the right embassy website, but you will have to do some clicking to find relevant COVID-19 information, as each embassy website is structured a bit differently.

## **Controls at Land Ports of Entry on Canadian and Mexican Borders**

### **Canada**

A [Federal Register notice](#) to be published on March 24 announces the decision to temporarily limit the travel of individuals from Canada into the United States at **land ports of entry** along the United States-Canada border to "essential travel."

The restrictions went into effect at 11:59 p.m. Eastern Daylight Time (EDT) / 9:59 p.m. Mountain Standard Time (MST) on March 20 and will remain in effect until 11:59 p.m. EDT / 9:59 p.m. MST on April 20. According to the notice, during the effective dates of the restrictions:

"... travel through the land ports of entry and ferry terminals along the United States-Canada border shall be limited to "essential travel," which includes, but is not limited to-

- **U.S. citizens and lawful permanent residents** returning to the United States;
- Individuals traveling for medical purposes (e.g., to receive medical treatment in the United States);
- **Individuals traveling to attend educational institutions;**
- **Individuals traveling to work in the United States** (e.g., individuals working in the farming or agriculture industry who must travel between the United States and Canada in furtherance of such work);
- Individuals traveling for emergency response and public health purposes (e.g., government officials or emergency responders entering the United States to support federal, state, local, tribal, or territorial government efforts to respond to COVID-19 or other emergencies);
- Individuals engaged in lawful cross-border trade (e.g., truck drivers supporting the movement of cargo between the United States and Canada);
- Individuals engaged in official government travel or diplomatic travel;
- Members of the U.S. Armed Forces, and the spouses and children of members of the U.S. Armed Forces, returning to the United States; and
- Individuals engaged in military-related travel or operations.

The following travel does not fall within the definition of "essential travel" for purposes of this notification-

- Individuals traveling for tourism purposes (e.g., sightseeing, recreation, gambling, or attending cultural events).

At this time, this notification does not apply to air, freight rail, or sea travel between the United States and Canada, but does apply to passenger rail and ferry travel between the United States and Canada. These restrictions are temporary in nature and shall remain in effect until 11:59 p.m. EDT / 9:59 p.m. MST on April

20. This notification may be amended or rescinded prior to that time, based on circumstances associated with the specific threat."

## **Mexico**

On March 20, the Department of Homeland Security posted a [joint statement on U.S.-Mexico Joint Initiative to Combat the COVID-19 Pandemic](#) that restricts all "non-essential" travel across the U.S.-Mexico border, starting Saturday March 21 for an initial period of 30 days.

"Recognizing the robust trade relationship between the United States and Mexico, we agree our two countries, in response to the ongoing global and regional health situation, require particular measures both to protect bilateral trade and our countries' economies and ensure the health of our nations' citizens. We agree to the need for a dedicated joint effort to prevent spread of the COVID-19 virus and address the economic effects resulting from reduced mobility along our shared border.

The U.S. and Mexican governments further recognize critical services such as food, fuel, healthcare and life-saving medicines must reach people on both sides of the border every day. Essential travel must therefore continue unimpeded during this time. In order to ensure that essential travel can continue, the United States and Mexico are also temporarily restricting all non-essential travel across its borders.

"Non-essential" travel includes travel that is considered tourism or recreational in nature. Additionally, we are encouraging people to exercise caution by avoiding unnecessary contact with others.

This collaborative and reciprocal initiative is an extension of our nations' prudent approach that values the health and safety of our citizens in the joint decisions made by our respective leaders regarding cross-border operations.

This joint initiative will commence at 00:01 Saturday March 21 throughout the US-Mexico land border for a period of 30 days subject to extension upon review."

## **Quarantine of U.S. citizens returning from China**

In a January 31, Department of Health and Human Services press briefing, Secretary Alex Azar declared that the novel coronavirus represents a public health emergency in the United States. Secretary Azar also announced that effective 5 p.m. EST on Sunday, February 2, the following restrictions on U.S. citizens returning from travels in China will be implemented:

- Any **U.S. citizen** returning to the United States who has been **in Hubei province** in the 14 days prior to their entry to the United States will be subject to up to 14 days of mandatory quarantine to ensure they have been provided proper medical care and health screening
- Any **U.S. citizen** returning to the United States who has been **anywhere else in mainland China** in the 14 days prior to their entry to the United States will undergo "proactive entry health screening at a select number of ports of entry," and up to 14 days of "monitored self-quarantine" to ensure they've not contracted the virus and do not pose a public health risk.

For details, see:

- [Transcript of Health and Human Services Secretary Azar's statement](#), and an [press release](#), which links to a video of the press briefing
- [Department of Homeland Security Issues Supplemental Instructions For Inbound Flights With Individuals Who Have Been In China](#) (February 2)

## **Coronavirus travel bans by Presidential Proclamation**

President Trump has issued four COVID-19-related proclamations to limit travel to the United States:

1. **China Travel Proclamation.** January 31- [Proclamation 9984 of January 31](#), published at 85 FR 6709, titled *Proclamation on Suspension of Entry as Immigrants and Nonimmigrants of Persons who Pose a Risk of Transmitting 2019 Novel Coronavirus*. The proclamation cites INA 212(f) to suspend entry into the United States of all aliens (immigrants, nonimmigrants, and other non U.S. citizens) 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 preceding their entry or attempted entry into the United States. This coronavirus travel ban was effective starting 5 p.m. on Sunday, February 2.
2. **Iran Travel Proclamation.** February 29 - [Proclamation 9992 of February 29](#), published at 85 FR 12855, titled *Proclamation on the Suspension of Entry as Immigrants and Nonimmigrants of Certain Additional Persons Who Pose a Risk of Transmitting Coronavirus*. The proclamation cites INA 212(f) to suspend entry into the United States of all aliens (immigrants, nonimmigrants, and other non U.S. citizens) who were physically present within the Islamic Republic of Iran during the 14-day period preceding their entry or attempted entry into the United States. This coronavirus travel ban was effective starting 5 p.m. eastern standard time on March 2. This proclamation did not apply to persons aboard a flight scheduled to arrive in the United States that departed prior to 5 p.m. eastern standard time on March 2.
3. **European Schengen Area Proclamation.** March 11- [Proclamation 9993 of March 11](#), titled *Proclamation - Suspension of Entry as Immigrants and Nonimmigrants of Certain Additional Persons Who Pose a Risk of Transmitting 2019 Novel Coronavirus*. "The entry into the United States, as immigrants or nonimmigrants, of all aliens who were physically present within the Schengen Area during the 14-day period preceding their entry or attempted entry into the United States is hereby suspended and limited subject to section 2 of this proclamation..." This proclamation was effective at 11:59 p.m. eastern daylight time on March 13. This proclamation did not apply to persons aboard a flight scheduled to arrive in the United States that departed prior to 11:59 p.m. eastern daylight time on March 13. Although in his address President Trump reportedly said the ban would last 30 days, the proclamation language itself states that it "shall remain in effect until terminated by the President."
  - Note: the European Schengen area includes: Austria, Belgium, Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Iceland, Italy, Latvia, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malta, Netherlands, Norway, Poland, Portugal, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, and Switzerland.
4. **Ireland and United Kingdom Proclamation.** March 14 - [Presidential Proclamation of March 14](#), titled *Proclamation on the Suspension of Entry as Immigrants and Nonimmigrants of Certain Additional Persons Who Pose a Risk of Transmitting Coronavirus*. "The entry into the United States, as immigrants or nonimmigrants, of all aliens who were physically present within the United Kingdom, excluding overseas territories outside of Europe, or the Republic of Ireland during the 14-day period preceding their entry or attempted entry into the United States is hereby suspended and limited ..." This proclamation was effective at 11:59 p.m. eastern daylight time on March 16. This proclamation did not apply to persons aboard a flight scheduled to arrive in the United States that departed prior to 11:59 p.m. eastern daylight time on March 16.

The proclamations do **not** apply to U.S. citizens, or to any alien who is:

1. a lawful permanent resident of the United States
2. a spouse of a U.S. citizen or lawful permanent resident

3. a parent or legal guardian of a U.S. citizen or lawful permanent resident, provided that the U.S. citizen or lawful permanent resident is unmarried and under the age of 21;
4. a sibling of a U.S. citizen or lawful permanent resident, provided that both are unmarried and under the age of 21;
5. a child, foster child, or ward of a U.S. citizen or lawful permanent resident, or who is a prospective adoptee seeking to enter the United States pursuant to the IR-4 or IH-4 visa classifications;
6. an alien traveling at the invitation of the United States Government for a purpose related to containment or mitigation of the virus;
7. C (transit) or D (air or sea crewmember) nonimmigrants
8. seeking entry into or transiting the United States pursuant to an A-1, A-2, C-2, C-3 (as a foreign government official or immediate family member of an official), G-1, G-2, G-3, G-4, NATO-1 through NATO-4, or NATO-6 visa;
9. an alien whose entry would not pose a significant risk of introducing, transmitting, or spreading the virus, as determined by the CDC Director, or his designee;
10. an alien whose entry would further important United States law enforcement objectives, as determined by the Secretary of State, the Secretary of Homeland Security, or their respective designees based on a recommendation of the Attorney General or his designee; or
11. an alien whose entry would be in the national interest, as determined by the Secretary of State, the Secretary of Homeland Security, or their designees.

For aliens not excluded by the ban, the proclamations direct the Secretary of Homeland Security to establish standards and procedures at and between all United States ports of entry to regulate the travel of persons and aircraft to the United States to facilitate the orderly medical screening and, where appropriate, quarantine of persons who enter the United States and who may have been exposed to the virus. "Such steps may include directing air carriers to restrict and regulate the boarding of such passengers on flights to the United States."

### **Designated U.S. airports**

[Proclamation 9984 of January 31](#) also directed the Department of Homeland Security "to regulate the travel of persons and aircraft to the United States to facilitate the orderly medical screening and, where appropriate, quarantine of persons who enter the United States and who may have been exposed to the virus. Such steps may include directing air carriers to restrict and regulate the boarding of such passengers on flights to the United States."

To implement this, joint U.S. Customs and Border Protection and Transportation Security Administration Federal Register notices direct all aircraft operators to ensure that all flights carrying persons, including U.S. citizens and permanent residents and others not subject to any of the four Presidential Proclamation coronavirus bans who have recently traveled from, or were otherwise present within, one of the countries designated in the Presidential Proclamations only land at one of the following airports.

1. John F. Kennedy International Airport (JFK), New York
2. Chicago O'Hare International Airport (ORD), Illinois
3. San Francisco International Airport (SFO), California
4. Los Angeles International Airport (LAX), California

5. Seattle-Tacoma International Airport (SEA), Washington
6. Daniel K. Inouye International Airport (HNL), Hawaii
7. Hartsfield-Jackson Atlanta International Airport (ATL), Georgia
8. Washington Dulles International Airport (IAD), Virginia
9. Newark Liberty International Airport (EWR), New Jersey
10. Dallas/Fort Worth International Airport (DFW), Texas
11. Detroit Metropolitan Wayne County Airport (DTW), Michigan
12. Boston Logan International Airport (BOS), Massachusetts
13. Miami International Airport (MIA), Florida

According to the [February 4 Federal Register notice](#), these are airports "where enhanced public health services and protocols are being implemented... This list of affected airports may be modified by the Secretary of Homeland Security in consultation with the Secretary of Health and Human Services and the Secretary of Transportation. This list of affected airports may be modified by an updated publication in the Federal Register or by posting an advisory to follow at [www.cbp.gov](http://www.cbp.gov). The restrictions will remain in effect until superseded, modified, or revoked by publication in the Federal Register. For purposes of this Federal Register document, "United States" means the States of the United States, the District of Columbia, and territories and possessions of the United States (including Puerto Rico, the Virgin Islands, American Samoa, the Northern Mariana Islands, the Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands, and Guam)."

The notices also clarify that a person is considered to have recently traveled from one of the designated countries if that person departed from, or was otherwise present within one of the designated countries, within 14 days of the date of the person's entry or attempted entry into the United States.

The [Centers for Disease Control describes the airport and screening protocol](#) as follows:

- *Your travel will be redirected to one of 11 U.S. airports where CDC has quarantine stations.*
- *You will be asked about your health and travel.*
- *Your health will be screened for fever, cough, or trouble breathing.*

*Depending on your health and travel history:*

- *You will have some restrictions on your movement for a period of 14 days from the time you left China or Iran.*

Read the Federal Register notices:

- [85 FR 6044](#) (February 4). **People's Republic of China notice.** Flights departing after 5 p.m. EST on Sunday, February 2 and covered by the arrival restrictions regarding the People's Republic of China are required to land at one of the designated airports.
- [85 FR 7214](#) (February 7). Added additional designated airports.
- [85 FR 12731](#) (March 4). **Iran notice.** Flights departing after 5 pm EST on Monday, March 2 and covered by the arrival restrictions regarding the Islamic Republic of Iran are required to land at one of the designated airports.

- [85 FR 15059](#) (March 17). **Schengen countries notice.** "Flights departing after 11:59 p.m. Eastern Daylight Time on Friday, March 13 and covered by the arrival restrictions regarding the countries of the Schengen Area are required to land at one of the airports identified in this document. These arrival restrictions will continue until cancelled or modified by the Secretary of the Department of Homeland Security and notification is published in the Federal Register of such cancellation or modification." The notice also added two airports to the list of approved airports (Boston Logan International Airport and Miami International Airport), for a total of 13.
- [85 FR 15714](#) (March 19). **United Kingdom and Republic of Ireland notice.** "Flights departing after 11:59 p.m. Eastern Daylight Time on Monday, March 16 and covered by the arrival restrictions regarding the United Kingdom, excluding overseas territories outside of Europe, or the Republic of Ireland are required to land at one of the airports identified in this document. These arrival restrictions will continue until cancelled or modified by the Secretary of the Department of Homeland Security and notification is published in the Federal Register of such cancellation or modification."

## **In-Person Courses Moving Online**

### *Enrollment and Your Immigration Record*

On March 9 the Department of Homeland Security and Department of State have both notified schools that the temporary shift from in-person to online courses in response to COVID-19 would not impact international student immigration records so long as the student continues to make “normal progress in a full course of study as required by federal regulations.”

This means that the immigration records for international students who continue to participate in their coursework online and maintain a full-time course load through the remainder of the semester will not be negatively impacted.

Fall 2020 course registration opens in April. When enrolling in your courses for Fall, make sure you follow the full-time enrollment requirements for your academic level and visa type listed below. In-person courses for Fall 2020 will still be required to maintain your immigration record.

- Undergraduates: 12 credit minimum
  - *F-1 students: 9 or more must be on campus*
  - *J-1 students: 12 or more must be on campus*
- Graduates: 9 credit minimum
  - *F-1 students: 6 or more must be on campus*
  - *J-1 students: 9 or more must be on campus*

### *Returning Home for the Remainder of the Semester*

Some students have indicated they may want to return home for the remainder of the semester due to in-person courses shifting to online. All CSU courses will be online for the remainder of the semester. Please use your best judgement in determining your travel plans.

Immigration regulations allow students who are maintaining their immigration record to be outside of the U.S. for **less than 5 months** and have their immigration record remain active. The five months starts the day you depart from the United States. However, the U.S. government has suspended this five-month rule during the COVID-19 pandemic. This means that you will not lose your SEVIS status if you are out of the country for over five months. An ISSS advisor can brief you on this matter if you have follow up questions about your personal situation.

## **Resources**

Some resources for updates on COVID-19:

- ICE's [Study in the States COVID-19 News](#) page
- NAFSA.org's [COVID-19 Restrictions on U.S. Visas and Entry](#) page

Check your email often for continued updates and guidance from our office as well as the office of CSU President Joyce McConnell. Additional resources include the [main CSU website](#) and the [Office of International Programs website](#) for updates regarding our university's response to COVID-19.