COVID-19 Airport Screening Procedures

The Department of Homeland Security (DHS), its component agencies and federal government partners are working with health professionals from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) to detect the virus and slow its spread in the United States. Since cases of the virus began to emerge locally, U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP), Transportation Security Administration (TSA), and the DHS Countering Weapons of Mass Destruction Office (CWMD) have been facilitating CDC’s enhanced entry screening of travelers entering the U.S. of all admissible persons (e.g. U.S. citizens, lawful permanent residents, and others falling within narrow exceptions to the Proclamation) who have been in mainland China, Iran, or the Schengen area in the last 14 days at one of 13 designated airports of entry where the Federal Government has focused public health resources. The 13 airports include: JFK, SFO, LAX, ATL, ORD, DFW, DTW, EWR, HNL, IAD, SEA, BOS, and MIA.

Primary: CBP Entry Processing

- CBP Officers will continue to identify all travelers who have recently been in China, Iran, or the Schengen area within the previous 14 days of encounter by:
  - Questioning travelers to determine travel history,
  - Using Advanced Targeting System rules (One-day automated ATS lookout), or
  - Identified by self-declaration.
- CBP will refer these identified travelers to secondary and will relay any information received from the traveler during the primary inspection.

Secondary: Enhanced Entry Screening

- CWMD contract personnel are taking the following enhanced entry screening actions in support of CDC:
  - Visually observe the traveler for signs of illness.
  - Screeners will complete the Traveler Health Declaration Form, which includes:
    - U.S. contact information
    - Potential exposure determination
    - Asking travelers about their health status (such as fever, cough, or difficulty breathing)
  - Randomly taking and recording traveler temperatures with a focus on whether the passenger’s temperature is elevated (100.4°F or above).
  - Provide the Check And Record Everyday (CARE) booklet and Health Information Card. The screener will review the booklet and card with the traveler.
• Symptomatic passengers or anyone answering yes to either the exposure determination question or the health status question will be referred to CDC for further medical evaluation.

(OR)

• Asymptomatic passengers will be allowed to reach their final destination. After arrival at final destination, traveler will remain home and monitor health for 14 days from departure from area of concern. Given a health card and CARE booklet stating what symptoms to look for and what to do if symptoms develop. Card advises traveler to stay home, limit social interactions, and stay in contact with state or local health department, and visit CDC website on card for more information.
On Mar 14, 2020, at 3:53 PM, AS2KTC wrote:

Fwd: UPDATE UK & Ireland Added: Department of Homeland Security Outlines New Process for Americans Returning from Schengen Area Countries, The United Kingdom, Ireland, China, and Iran: TEST
I will forward to AS1

From: AS2KTC
Sent: Saturday, March 14, 2020 3:49:46 PM
To: AS2KTC
Cc: MORGAN, MARK A
Subject: Re: UPDATE UK & Ireland Added: Department of Homeland Security Outlines New Process for Americans Returning from Schengen Area Countries, The United Kingdom, Ireland, China, and Iran: TEST

In order to implement the new UK and Ireland 212 F effectively and without disruption to the airport operations domestically a start date and time of March 17th at 11:59 would preferred.

Reasons for the request:

- Hits must be manually vetted to ensure compliance with the proclamation (i.e. we are allowing the exceptions to the proclamations to board)
- We anticipate 150% increase in hits than we did with the China rules.
- We are currently experiencing a 3 fold increase for the Schengen Zone rule hits over China
- ESTAs must be canceled manually for travelers that have confirm reservations.
- We planned for an anticipated a surge in volume for the first 72-96 hours from the Schengen Zone
- Today alone we are expecting over 11K passengers between Newark and JFK all that are required to be referred for medical assessment. We have concern for over taxing secondary areas with these volumes. There will certainly be missed connections and increased passenger wait times.
- Given an additional 24 hours would allow for the initial surge from the Schengen zone travels to wain before the UK and Ireland surge.

Operations Support
U.S. Customs and Border Protection

On Mar 14, 2020, at 3:29 PM, AS2KTC wrote:
On call. You want to weigh in please?

Ok.

Thanks,

Let’s hold.
Have a text from Ken indicating timeframe might be an issue.
Subject: Fwd: UPDATE UK & Ireland Added: Department of Homeland Security Outlines New Process for Americans Returning from Schengen Area Countries, The United Kingdom, Ireland, China, and Iran: TEST

FYI this will go out at 4pm. It was cleared by OGC.

The highlight is the only new item.

Thanks,

From: U.S. Department of Homeland Security
<departmentofhomelandsecurity@messages.dhs.gov>

Sent: Saturday, March 14, 2020 3:04 PM

Subject: UPDATE UK & Ireland Added: Department of Homeland Security Outlines New Process for Americans Returning from Schengen Area Countries, The United Kingdom, Ireland, China, and Iran: TEST

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY
Office of Public Affairs

UPDATE: Effective Monday March 16th at 11:59PM flights from the United Kingdom and Ireland will also be added to the previously announced arrival restrictions that are in effect for the Schengen Area, China, and Iran. DHS will soon publish a Notice of Arrival Restrictions in the Federal Register outlining specifics.

Department of Homeland Security Outlines New Process for Americans Returning from Schengen Area Countries, The United Kingdom, Ireland, China, and Iran

WASHINGTON – In order to help prevent the spread of travel-related cases of coronavirus in the United States, today the Department of Homeland Security (DHS)
Acting Secretary Chad F. Wolf issued a Notice of Arrival Restrictions outlining the process for American citizens, legal permanent residents, and their immediate families who are returning home after recently visiting certain European countries (listed below), China, and Iran.

Effective for flights taking off at 11:59 PM EDT on Friday, March 13th, Americans returning from all restricted countries will now be required to travel through the following 13 airports:

- Boston-Logan International Airport (BOS), Massachusetts
- Chicago O’Hare International Airport (ORD), Illinois
- Dallas/Fort Worth International Airport (DFW), Texas
- Detroit Metropolitan Airport (DTW), Michigan
- Daniel K. Inouye International Airport (HNL), Hawaii
- Hartsfield-Jackson Atlanta International Airport (ATL), Georgia
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- Miami International Airport (MIA), Florida
- Newark Liberty International Airport (EWR), New Jersey
- San Francisco International Airport (SFO), California
- Seattle-Tacoma International Airport (SEA), Washington
- Washington-Dulles International Airport (IAD), Virginia

Upon arrival, travelers will proceed to standard customs processing. They will then continue to enhanced entry screening where the passenger will be asked about their medical history, current condition, and asked for contact information for local health authorities. Passengers will then be given written guidance about COVID-19 and directed to proceed to their final destination, and immediately home-quarantine in accordance with CDC best practices.

“While the overall risk of serious infection from the coronavirus to the general public remains low at this time, the Trump administration is taking these aggressive measures to keep the risk low, requiring all Americans returning from affected areas in Europe to be funneled through 13 airports for screening upon their return to the U.S.,” said Acting Secretary Wolf. “To minimize disruptions to travelers, TSA, CBP, and air carriers are working to identify qualifying passengers before their scheduled flights. These passengers will be rerouted to one of the 13 airports by their airline at no cost to them.”

Wolf continued: “I understand this new process will be disruptive to some travelers, however this action is needed to protect the general public from further exposure and spread of the coronavirus. Once back in the U.S. it is imperative that individuals honor self-quarantine directives to help protect their loved-ones and communities.”

President Trump determined that the potential for widespread transmission of the coronavirus by infected individuals seeking to enter the United States threatens the security of the homeland. Therefore, the Department is taking action in furtherance of the
public health interests advanced by the March 11th presidential proclamation which suspends entry to nearly all foreign nationals who have been in certain European countries, China and Iran at any point during the 14 days prior to their scheduled travel to the U.S.

These European countries, known as the Schengen Area, include: 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. This Presidential Proclamation does not apply to U.S. citizens, legal permanent residents, nor their family members under the age of 21, and other individuals who are identified in the proclamation. Nor does it apply to cargo and economic shipping.

###

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FACT SHEET

DHS Notice of Arrival Restrictions on Individuals Returning from China, Iran and Schengen Countries of Europe

✓ American citizens, legal permanent residents, and their immediate families who are arriving from impacted area must travel through one of 13 airports where DHS has established enhanced entry screening capabilities.

✓ All American citizens, legal permanent residents, and their immediate families who are returning from the impacted area must self-quarantine for 14 days after their arrival.

Summary

In furtherance of Presidential Proclamations 9984, 9992, and 9993, which bans the entry of non-U.S. citizens who are from or recently been in China, Iran, or 26 European countries, the Department of Homeland Security issued a Notice of Arrival Restrictions requiring American citizens, legal permanent residents, and their immediate families who are returning home to the U.S. to travel through one of 13 airports upon arrival to the U.S., submit to an enhanced entry screening and self-quarantine for 14 days once they reach their final destination.

Background

On March 11, 2020, President Trump determined that the potential for widespread transmission of the coronavirus by infected individuals seeking to enter the United States from parts of Europe threatens the security of the homeland. The President issued Proclamations 9984, 9992, and 9993, which suspends entry to nearly all foreign nationals who have been in China, Iran, and certain European countries at any point during the 14 days prior to their scheduled travel to the U.S.

These European countries, known as the Schengen Area, include: 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.

Implementation

The order is effective for flights taking off after 11:59 PM EDT on Friday, March 13th. Americans returning from the affected countries will now be required to travel through 13 airports:

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Screening & Quarantine
Upon arrival, travelers will proceed to standard customs processing. They will then continue to an enhanced entry screening where the passenger will be asked about their medical history, current condition, and asked for contact information for local health authorities. Additionally, some passengers will have their temperature taken.

After the enhanced entry screening is complete, passengers will be given written guidance about COVID-19 and be allowed to proceed to their final destination.

Once home, individuals must immediately self-quarantine in their home and monitor their health in accordance with CDC best practices.

In order to ensure compliance, local and State public health officials will contact individuals in the days and weeks following their arrival.
The edits are not highlighted in the email below, but they are included. In the attached doc, they are highlighted in green.

Thx,

Ken
Sir,

There are 0 inbound flights from CN to either SEA or HNL since 2/26/2020. From the Schengen Zone, the direct total for those two airports is 1 Jan – 11 Mar is 103,098, which on average is
Gary,

On the morning call, I asked for TSA and CBP to provide data (passenger loads) on flights from China/Europe into Seattle and Honolulu. Awaiting that data.

Chad F. Wolf
Acting Secretary
Dept of Homeland Security

---

From: Rasicot, Gary
Sent: Thursday, March 12, 2020 11:19 AM
To: AS1CFW (b)(6)
Cc: AS2KTC (b)(6)
(b)(6) Havranek, John
(b)(6)

Subject: RE: Closing Airport Screenings to Reallocate Screening Resources

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Subject: Closing Airport Screenings to Reallocate Screening Resources

AS1

(b)(5)
V/r Gary

Gary Rasicot
Acting Assistant Secretary
Countering Weapons of Mass Destruction

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| Sent Date: 2020/03/12 18:14:49 |
| Delivered Date: 2020/03/12 18:14:50 |
FACT SHEET:

DHS Notice of Arrival Restrictions on China, Iran and Schengen Countries of Europe

✓ American citizens, legal permanent residents, and their immediate families who are arriving from impacted area must travel through one of 13 airports where DHS has established enhanced entry screening capabilities.

✓ All American citizens, legal permanent residents, and their immediate families who are returning from the impacted area must self-quarantine for 14 days after their arrival.

Summary
In furtherance of Presidential Proclamations 9984, 9992, and 9993, which bans the entry of non-U.S. citizens who are from or recently been in China, Iran, or 26 European countries, the Department of Homeland Security issued a Notice of Arrival Restrictions requiring American citizens, legal permanent residents, and their immediate families who are returning home to the U.S. to travel through one of 13 airports upon arrival to the U.S., submit to an enhanced entry screening and self-quarantine for 14 days once they reach their final destination.

Background
On March 11, 2020, President Trump determined that the potential for widespread transmission of the coronavirus by infected individuals seeking to enter the United States from parts of Europe threatens the security of the homeland. The President issued Proclamations 9984, 9992, and 9993, which suspends entry to nearly all foreign nationals who have been in China, Iran, and certain European countries at any point during the 14 days prior to their scheduled travel to the U.S.

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In order to ensure compliance, local and State public health officials will contact individuals in the days and weeks following their arrival.
From: Bars, Michael
Sent: Friday, March 13, 2020 5:57:33 PM
To: AS2KTC ; Rasicot, Gary
Subject: Re: Department of Homeland Security Outlines New Process for Americans Returning from Certain European Countries, China, and Iran

20-30 min tops. You and Gary as SMEs. Press team sets up the call.

I’m doing it tomorrow at noon.
Expect a 1 p.m. with European press.
Good idea.
Good idea
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