DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY

U.S. Customs and Border Protection

Transportation Security Administration

19 CFR Chapter I

49 CFR Chapter XII

Notice of Arrival Restrictions Applicable to Flights Carrying Persons Who Have Recently Traveled from or were otherwise present within the People’s Republic of China


ACTION: Notice of arrival restrictions.

SUMMARY: This document announces a modification to the January 31, 2020 decision of the Secretary of the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) to direct all flights to the United States carrying persons who have recently traveled from, or were otherwise present within, the People’s Republic of China to arrive at one of the United States airports where the United States Government is focusing public health resources. This document adds four additional airports to the list of airports where flights can land and describes when the arrival restrictions will include those airports.

DATES: Flights departing after 5 pm EST on Sunday, February 2, 2020 and covered by the arrival restrictions are required to land at one of the airports identified in the January
31, 2020 document (JFK, ORD, SFO, SEA, HNL, LAX, ATL) or at IAD. Beginning at 6:30 am EST on Monday February 3, 2020, DHS will expand the list of authorized airports to include EWR. Beginning at 7:30 am EST on Monday, February 3, 2020, DHS will further expand the list of authorized airports to include DFW and DTW. Arrival restrictions continue until cancelled or modified by the Secretary of DHS and notification is published in the Federal Register of such cancellation or modification.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Alyce Modesto, Office of Field Operations, 202-344-3788.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Background

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) is closely monitoring an outbreak of respiratory illness caused by a novel (new) coronavirus first identified in Wuhan City, Hubei Province, China. Coronaviruses are a large family of viruses that are common in many different species of animals, including camels, cattle, cats, and bats. Rarely, animal coronaviruses can infect people and then spread between people such as with Middle East Respiratory Syndrome (MERS) and Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome (SARS).

The potential for widespread transmission of this virus by infected individuals seeking to enter the United States threatens the security of our transportation system and infrastructure, and the national security. In an abundance of caution and to assist in preventing the introduction and spread of this communicable disease in the United States,
DHS, in coordination with the CDC and other Federal, state and local agencies charged with protecting the American public, is implementing enhanced arrival protocols to ensure that all travelers with recent travel from the People’s Republic of China are provided public health services. Entry screening is part of a layered approach used with other public health measures already in place to detect arriving travelers who are exhibiting overt signs of illness, reporting of ill travelers by air carriers during travel, and referral of ill travelers arriving at a U.S. port of entry by U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP) to appropriate public health officials to slow and prevent the spread of communicable disease into the United States.

To ensure that travelers with recent travel from the People’s Republic of China are screened, DHS directs that all flights to the United States carrying persons who have recently traveled from, or were otherwise present within, the People’s Republic of China arrive at airports where enhanced public health services and protocols are being implemented. While DHS anticipates working with air carriers to identify potential persons from the affected area prior to boarding, air carriers shall comply with the requirements of this notice.

On Friday, January 31, 2020, DHS posted a document on the Federal Register public inspection page, announcing the DHS Secretary’s decision that arrival restrictions would go into effect at 5 pm EST on Sunday, February 2, 2020 at seven airports. This document adds four additional airports to the list of airports where flights can land and describes when the arrival restrictions will include those airports.
DHS notes that implementation of the arrival restrictions in this document and in the January 31, 2020 document may entail technical and logistical difficulties for airlines. We are confident that all airlines will make every effort to comply. DHS is appreciative of good faith attempts at compliance by airlines.

Notice of Arrival Restrictions Applicable to All Flights Carrying Persons Who Have Recently Traveled from or Were Otherwise Present Within the People’s Republic of China

Pursuant to 19 U.S.C. 1433(c), 19 CFR 122.32, 49 U.S.C. 114, and 49 CFR 1544.305 and 1546.105, DHS has the authority to limit the location where all flights entering the U.S. from abroad may land. Under this authority and effective for flights departing after 5 pm EST on Sunday, February 2, 2020, I hereby direct all operators of aircraft to ensure that all flights carrying persons who have recently traveled from, or were otherwise present within, the People’s Republic of China only land at 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;
Effective at 6:30 am EST on Monday February 3, this list of airports is expanded to include:

- Newark Liberty International Airport (EWR), New Jersey.

Effective at 7:30 am EST on Monday February 3, this list of airports is expanded to include:

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

This direction considers a person to have recently traveled from the People’s Republic of China if that person departed from, or was otherwise present within, the People’s Republic of China (excluding the special autonomous regions of Hong Kong and Macau) within 14 days of the date of the person’s entry or attempted entry into the United States. Also, for purposes of this document, crew, and flights carrying only cargo (i.e., no passengers or non-crew), are excluded from the measures herein. This direction is subject to any changes to the airport landing destination that may be required for aircraft and/or airspace safety as directed by the Federal Aviation Administration.

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. The restrictions will remain in effect until superseded, modified, or revoked by publication in the Federal Register.
The following is the text of the document that the Secretary signed on Sunday, February 2, 2020. This document will also be published in the Federal Register and available at https://www.federalregister.gov.

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).

Chad F. Wolf
Acting Secretary,
U.S. Department of Homeland Security