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Coronavirus disease (COVID-19): Travel advice

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Active travel health notices

There are several active travel health notices for COVID-19. Each country or area may have different [levels of risk](#). These risk levels may change as the COVID-19 event evolves internationally.

Before you leave, check the following destinations that have travel health notices for COVID-19:

- [China](#)
- [France](#)
- [Germany](#)
- [Hong Kong](#)
- [Iran](#)
- [Japan](#)
- [Northern Italy](#)
- [Singapore](#)
- [South Korea](#)
- [Spain](#)

Health risks

All travellers should be aware that there are health risks when you travel. It is important to check your destination before you leave to know the risks and to be prepared.

While you are away, and when you return, it is important to monitor your health. If you become sick while travelling, call ahead to a health professional to explain your symptoms. If you become sick upon your return, call your local Public Health Authority for further instructions.

If you have travelled outside Canada, you can reduce the risk of spreading infection by following prevention measures when returning to Canada.

People can contract coronaviruses after coming into contact with an infected person. Current evidence suggests person-to-person spread is efficient when there is close contact.

There is no vaccine or treatment to prevent coronaviruses. Most people with common coronavirus illness will recover on their own.

If you are concerned that you have symptoms of COVID-19 such as fever, cough or difficulty breathing, contact your local public health authority for further instructions.

Safety and security abroad

Travellers should expect increased health screening measures at points of entry for international destinations, including airports. Local authorities may impose control measures suddenly, including movement restrictions such as quarantines.

Some governments have implemented special entry and exit restrictions for their territory. Before travelling, verify with the foreign diplomatic mission of your destination to see if its authorities have implemented any specific restrictions related to this situation. These include entry requirements, border closures and flight suspensions.

To ensure you are aware of the latest developments on this evolving situation, we recommend:

- monitoring the news
- reading all travel advice and advisories for your destination

If you are in an affected destination, we recommend:

- following the instructions of local authorities
- signing up to our Registration of Canadians Abroad service to receive important updates

Avoid all cruise ship travel

The Public Health Agency of Canada (PHAC) is **recommending that Canadians avoid all cruise ship travel** due to the ongoing COVID-19 outbreak.

Cruise passengers include travellers from around the world who may be arriving from areas with known or unknown spread of COVID-19. The virus can spread quickly on board cruises due to the close contact between passengers. Older people and people with a weakened immune system or underlying medical condition are at a higher risk of developing severe disease.

Recent cruise ship outbreaks of COVID-19 indicate that a large number of individuals onboard can become infected. While the majority of affected passengers may experience mild symptoms, there have been a **significant** number of cases requiring hospitalization and **critical care**, and some deaths have been reported.

Planning a cruise

Canadians planning cruise ship travel should be aware that infectious diseases, such as COVID-19, can spread quickly due to close contact between passengers. Older people and people with a weakened immune system or underlying medical condition are at a higher risk of developing complications from COVID-19.

As the situation evolves, many countries are implementing policies and restrictions in order to contain the outbreak. These restrictions may impact a cruise traveller's:

- itinerary
- ability to disembark
- access to health care

If an outbreak of COVID-19 occurs on your cruise ship:

- you could be subject to quarantine procedures, on-board ship or in a foreign country
- the range of consular services available to those on cruise ships, in particular in situations of quarantine, may be significantly restricted by local authorities
- upon return to Canada, you will be required to remain in mandatory isolation for 14 days at a location determined by the Chief Public Health Officer as per the terms of any applicable emergency orders

The decision on *Minimizing the Risk of Exposure to COVID-19 Coronavirus Disease in Canada Order (Persons Not on Government Flight)* is effective from February 19 to April 30, 2020.

Canadians who choose to voyage on a cruise ship should also be aware that they may not be offered the opportunity to return to Canada on a government-organized repatriation flight, or could be responsible for the costs of repatriation travel.

Government of Canada COVID-19 information line: **1-833-784-4397**.

Registration of Canadians Abroad

Sign up with the Registration of Canadians Abroad service to stay connected with the Government of Canada in case of an emergency abroad or an emergency at home.

For returning travellers

The risk to Canadian travellers abroad is generally low but will vary depending on the destination. PHAC is closely monitoring the spread of COVID-19 in other countries. Please consult the destination page on travel.gc.ca for the latest travel advice.

If you have travelled outside Canada, it is important to monitor your health when you return to Canada. While abroad, you may have come in contact with the novel coronavirus. PHAC asks that you monitor your health for fever, cough and difficulty breathing for 14 days after you arrive in Canada. If you have these symptoms, call the public health authority in the province or territory you are in to inform them. They will provide advice on what you should do.

If you have travelled to Hubei province, China, or Iran in the last 14 days, limit your contact with others for a total of 14 days, starting the day you began your journey to Canada. This means self-isolate and **stay at home**. In addition, contact the local public health authority in your province or territory within 24 hours of arriving in Canada.

All travellers are advised to monitor themselves for symptoms and to contact the local public health authority in their province or territory if they feel sick.

Call ahead if you suspect you have been exposed to COVID-19 abroad. Inform your health care provider or local health authority about symptoms and travel history.

During your return to Canada

If you develop symptoms of coronavirus before you are scheduled to leave, do **not** get on board any form of public transportation. Seek medical attention.

If you experience symptoms of COVID-19 during a flight, tell the flight attendant before you land or the border services officer as you enter the country. They will notify a quarantine officer who will assess your symptoms.

If you do not have symptoms but believe you were exposed to a source of COVID-19, report this information to a Canada border services agent on arrival in Canada. This is required under the *Quarantine Act*. The Canada border services agent will provide instructions for you to follow.

We have put messaging on arrivals screens at international airports that will help guide travellers to inform a border services officer if they are experiencing flu-like symptoms.

In addition, pamphlets with additional information on what symptoms to identify and how to contact local health authorities will be provided to travellers.

During the 14 days after your return

If you develop symptoms of COVID-19, isolate yourself at home as quickly as possible and call your appropriate public health authority immediately.

Describe your symptoms and document your travel history. Your health care professional or health authority will provide instructions for you to follow, including appropriate arrangements for your medical assessment.

Help reduce the spread COVID-19.

For passengers from the *MS Westerdam* cruise ship

Based on recent evidence and what we know about the health of those aboard the *MS Westerdam* cruise ship, there is no indication that passengers were exposed to COVID-19. As a result, Canada's border measures specific to passengers who were on the *MS Westerdam* have been changed to reflect the reduced risk to public health.

Upon arrival at a Canadian port of entry, those aboard the ship will now be asked to monitor for symptoms of COVID-19 (fever, cough and difficulty breathing). If symptoms are present, they should contact their local public health authority. They will also receive an information handout on COVID-19.

Passengers are advised to contact their airlines to determine if they have put in place any travel restrictions.

Related links

- [Advice for Cruise Travellers](#)
- [Coronavirus disease \(COVID-19\): Outbreak update](#)
- [Travel advice and advisories](#)
- [Sickness or injury when travelling](#)
- [If you get sick after travelling](#)

- Travel vaccinations

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