

Coronavirus Update as of March 16, 2020

The World Health Organization has classified the coronavirus (COVID-19) outbreak as a pandemic and President Trump has declared a national emergency in the U.S., which allows him to provide emergency funding and increase testing. He has recommended gatherings should be limited to 10 people. Muriel E. Bowser, Mayor of the District of Columbia, has declared a [state of emergency](#) and public health emergency in DC, which enables her to enforce quarantines, cancellations and other emergency response efforts. [DC Health](#) and the DC Homeland Security and Emergency Management Agency are leading the response locally.

- DC Health has banned gatherings of 50 or more people and gatherings of 10 or more for at-risk populations. The restriction expires March 31 but may be extended.
- As of the evening of March 16, restaurants, bars and taverns will be carry out or delivery only. Health clubs, gyms and theaters will also be closed.
- There are currently 17 confirmed cases impacting DC, including person-to-person transmission. For updated information on DC's cases, visit coronavirus.dc.gov
- Destination DC has posted information about the [impact to the District](#) and [coronavirus-related closures and canceled events](#) on washington.org.
- Out of an abundance of caution to its staff, their families and customers, Events DC has closed the Walter E. Washington Convention Center and suspended operations and services through March 31. See the official statement [here](#).
- If travelers exhibit symptoms and are concerned that they might have coronavirus while in Washington, DC, please call DC Health's hotline at 844-493-2652.

According to the White House, [travel is restricted to the U.S. from Europe](#). There are currently no restrictions on travel anywhere in the U.S. Destination DC, the official destination marketing organization for Washington, DC, is working in coordination with industry partners including the U.S. Travel Association, Events DC, the Hotel Association of Washington, DC, Restaurant Association Metropolitan Washington and local officials in line with guidance from the CDC to communicate current information and best practices.

Please note the following:

- There are many closures and event cancellations. For the latest information, please visit the [event/attraction closures](#) page on washington.org.
- [DC government coronavirus information](#)
- Events DC has closed the Walter E. Washington Convention Center and suspended operations and services through March 31. See the official statement [here](#).
- [Metro reduces service](#) beginning Monday, March 16
- Regional hotels are implementing proactive strategies, following CDC guidelines and monitoring the information from local government agencies as they manage this issue with the wellbeing of hotel guests being of paramount concern.
- [Metropolitan Washington Airports Authority](#) COVID-19 information
- [Restaurant Association Metropolitan Washington](#) COVID-19 resources

- The National Park Service (NPS) Office of Public Health and the U.S. Public Health Service officers assigned to the NPS are closely monitoring the situation and keeping park staffs informed, relying on the most updated data and information from the CDC.

Industry/Meetings:

- U.S. Travel Association's comprehensive [information](#) for the travel industry
- CDC's [guide for businesses](#)
- PCMA [FAQs](#) and [recovery plan](#)

National/International

- [CDC travel notices](#)
- CDC COVID-19 [webpage](#)
- WHO COVID-19 [webpage](#)

Please let us know if you have any questions.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Elliott L. Ferguson, II".

Elliott L. Ferguson, II
President and CEO
Destination DC