

Coronavirus Update as of March 31, 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. He has recommended gatherings should be limited to 10 people through April 30.

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.

Current travel restrictions:

- On Saturday, March 28, the [CDC](#) urged residents of New York, New Jersey and Connecticut to refrain from non-essential domestic travel for 14 days
- [Travel is currently restricted to the U.S. from Europe](#)
- The White House has said discretionary travel should be avoided and warned against international travel; see advisories [here](#)
- The U.S.-Canada and U.S.-Mexico borders are restricted.

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. Please note the following local updates:

- DC Health has banned gatherings of 10 or more people through April 24.
- Currently, restaurants, bars and taverns are carry-out or delivery only. Non-essential businesses including health clubs, gyms, theaters, stores and salons are closed through April 24.
- There are currently 495 confirmed cases in DC. Mayor Bowser expects cases to [surge in May](#). The latest data is at [coronavirus.dc.gov](#)
- DC Health [guidance for the general public](#)
- Destination DC has a [landing page](#) that includes [impact to the District](#), [coronavirus-related closures and canceled events](#), [ways to support local businesses](#), [DC hotels that are open](#) and more at [washington.org/dc-information/coronavirus](#).
- [Events DC](#) has closed and suspended operations at venues (Walter E. Washington Convention Center, Entertainment and Sports Arena, RFK Stadium, DC Armory, The Fields at RFK Campus, Skate Park at RFK Campus, Festival Grounds at RFK Campus, Gateway DC and R.I.S.E. Demonstration Center) through April 27.
- Visitors and locals are discouraged from visiting the cherry blossoms. Roads around the Tidal Basin are closed, MPD and the DC National Guard have restricted bicycle and pedestrian access.
- [Metro urges the public to stay home](#) and use Metro only if there are no other options available; 19 stations are closed including Smithsonian and Arlington Cemetery.
- [DC Circulator](#) suspended fares and suspended its National Mall routes.
- [Metropolitan Washington Airports Authority](#) COVID-19 information
- 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.
- [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 Resources:

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

National/International Resources:

- [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