

## Coronavirus Update as of March 23, 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.

[Travel is currently restricted to the U.S. from Europe](#) and the White House has said discretionary travel should be avoided. The State Department has warned U.S. citizens not to travel internationally. The U.S.-Canada and U.S.-Mexico borders are restricted.

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.

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 50 or more people and gatherings of 10 or more for at-risk populations through April 25.
- Currently, restaurants, bars and taverns are carry-out or delivery only. Health clubs, gyms and theaters are also closed. The restriction is in effect through April 25.
- There are currently 116 confirmed cases in DC. The latest data is at [coronavirus.dc.gov](https://coronavirus.dc.gov)
- 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.
- Destination DC has a [landing page](#) that includes [impact to the District](#), [coronavirus-related closures and canceled events](#), [ways to support local businesses](#) and more at [washington.org/dc-information/coronavirus](https://washington.org/dc-information/coronavirus).
- [Events DC](#) has closed the Walter E. Washington Convention Center and suspended operations and services through March 31.
- 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; Smithsonian and Arlington Cemetery stations are closed.
- [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.



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