



Date: March 12, 2020

DPH Numbered Memo BCD 2020-04

To: The Residents of Wisconsin, Local Health Departments, Tribal Health Agencies, Public Health Partners

From: Jeanne Ayers, R.N., M.P.H.
State Health Officer, Administrator, Division of Public Health

**Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19) Update:
Recommendations on Domestic and International Travel**

PLEASE DISTRIBUTE WIDELY

Summary

Since being identified in late 2019, Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19) has spread to more than 100 countries worldwide, and has been classified as a pandemic by the World Health Organization. Person-to-person transmission of COVID-19 is also occurring in a growing number of regions inside and outside of the United States, necessitating concerted efforts by public health and clinical partners to contain the spread of this epidemic.

The purpose of this memorandum is to **provide Wisconsin public health partners and the general public with guidance on domestic and international travel** in accordance with Wis. Stat. ch. 252 and Wis. Admin. Code ch. DHS 145. Additional details on this outbreak are available on the [Department of Health Services' \(DHS\) COVID-19 webpage](#) and the [Centers for Disease Control and Prevention \(CDC\) website](#). As conditions change across communities we will be reviewing and updating these recommendations.

International Travel

Currently the CDC and the Wisconsin Department of Health Services (DHS) recommend the following with respect to international travel:

- All travelers avoid all nonessential travel to China, Iran, Italy, and South Korea (Level 3 Travel Notice)
- Older adults and those with chronic conditions avoid travel to Japan (Level 2 Travel Notice)
- Travelers practice normal precautions (avoiding contact with sick people, avoiding touching eyes, nose or mouth, etc.) when traveling to Hong Kong (Level 1 Travel Notice)

Further, CDC and DHS recommend that all travelers, particularly those with underlying health conditions, defer all cruise ship travel worldwide. Older adults and travelers with underlying health issues should avoid situations that put them at increased risk for more severe disease, such as non-essential travel and long plane trips.

Additional information on these international travel recommendations is available on the CDC "[Coronavirus Disease 2019 Information for Travel](#)" webpage.

Domestic Travel

Though there are areas within the United States where there is “sustained community transmission” of COVID-19, the CDC has not issued recommendations related to travel within the United States. In the absence of such guidance and with the goal of delaying the onset of sustained community transmission of COVID-19 in Wisconsin, DHS recommends the following domestic travel-related measures:

- **DHS recommends against all non-essential travel to any U.S. state where the CDC deems there is “sustained community transmission”** of COVID-19. As of March 11, 2020, the CDC has determined sustained community transmission is occurring in the states of California, New York, and Washington. This situation is rapidly evolving, and travelers should refer to the list of “States Reporting Cases of COVID-19 to CDC” on the “[Coronavirus Disease 2019 \(COVID-19\) in the U.S.](#)” webpage for the most current list of states where CDC determines that sustained community transmission is occurring. (Click the + sign under the map to see a table that reports CDC’s assessment of community transmission in the far right column.)
- For all travelers returning to Wisconsin from U.S. states where the CDC has determined that sustained community transmission is occurring, **DHS recommends that those individuals self-quarantine at home for 14 days and monitor for symptoms of COVID-19** (including fever and cough). The [DHS COVID-19 webpage](#) provides instructions on how to self-quarantine and self-monitor for symptoms.