

THE LATEST

This afternoon, U.S. Travel Association President and CEO Roger Dow, along with American Hotel & Lodging Association President and CEO Chip Rogers and multiple hotel executives, met with President Trump, Vice President Pence and Commerce Secretary Ross to discuss the impact of coronavirus on America's travel industry and a disaster relief package to help support the millions of travel workers and businesses—83% of which are small business—affected by these incredible circumstances.

In the meeting, U.S. Travel presented the severity of the situation to America's travel industry and recommendations for immediate policy action to protect travel workers, travel businesses and the rest of the economy that depends on our industry.

Immediately after this meeting, we joined a call with the media and released the [economic impact data](#) from Oxford Economics that we shared with the White House. These findings summarized in the below chart are critical in communicating the devastating impact to our workforce and urging Congress and the administration to take action. More data can be found [on our website](#). The release of this data is [driving strong media pickup](#).



Starting this week, we will be sending a weekly communication with all the latest research and data on the impact this outbreak is having on our industry. Everyone who receives this weekly email will receive our new research email as well.

Federal/Congressional Updates

- Today, U.S. Travel [circulated a letter](#) to both chambers of Congress sizing the incredible impact of coronavirus to the U.S. travel economy and workforce, along with our policy recommendations to immediately address the severe falloff:
 - **Grants to protect the travel workforce:** Provide direct grants to keep workers in their jobs and provide compensation for economic losses incurred in the interest of public health.
 - **Loans to stabilize business operations:** Provide travel-dependent businesses and nonprofits with zero interest, unsecured lines of credit from the U.S. Treasury

Department. Maximize SBA loan programs by increasing loan limits and guarantee percentages, waiving loan fees, and providing forbearance on interest and loan payments through 2020.

- **Provide tax relief to mitigate economic losses and spur recovery:** Permit affected businesses to temporarily defer tax liability, delay or eliminate estimated quarterly tax payments and filing deadlines and allow for a carryback of the Net Operating Loss (NOL) deduction.
- **Reverse declines in travel demand—keep America moving and working:** Install a temporary travel tax credit to encourage travel spending, restore the entertainment business expense deduction, boost community development block grants to promote healthy travel and provide a temporary payroll tax cut.
- On Monday afternoon, President Trump held a press conference to [issue new recommended guidelines](#) for Americans to observe for the next 15 days. The recommendations included avoiding discretionary travel, avoiding social gatherings with more than 10 people and avoiding restaurants, bars and food courts.
- Also on Monday, three House Committee chairs [called](#) for the Department of Homeland Security to delay the REAL ID compliance deadline due to the impact of coronavirus and continually low numbers of Americans with compliant identification. U.S. Travel has been coordinating with key members in both chambers on this call for an extension and is preparing to pivot our own messaging to call for a deadline as well.
- On Saturday, the House of Representatives [passed](#) a second coronavirus relief package that expands access to free coronavirus testing and provides \$1 billion in food aid and sick leave benefits for vulnerable Americans. The U.S. Senate is expected to take up the package today after technical corrections were passed by the House late last night.
- On Friday afternoon, President Trump [issued a national emergency](#) due to the spread of coronavirus in the U.S. This action unlocked \$42 billion in federal resources from the Disaster Relief Fund, which the Federal Emergency Management Agency can use to support a coordinated natural disaster response plan with state and local governments.

International Updates

- Last week, President Trump [announced](#) restrictions on all travel from the European Union for 30 days, and over the weekend those restrictions were extended to include the United Kingdom and Ireland. On Monday, the E.U. itself [followed suit](#) and restricted all nonessential travel into the region for 30 days as well.
- Canada [also announced](#) that it would close its borders to most nonresidents. It exempted visitors from the U.S., though anyone who crosses the border from the U.S. will still be required to self-isolate for 14 days upon arrival.

Travel Industry Updates

- On Monday, U.S. Travel held a call with its Communications Advisory Committee to provide an update on policy and messaging developments. Our message aims to provide support for the suite of policy solutions that U.S. Travel is advancing in Congress to mitigate the damage from the severe disruptions to travel.
- U.S. Travel has initiated weekly data updates with Tourism Economics to get a sense of the national economic impact of coronavirus, such as spending declines and job losses, as well as to compile survey results on how the coronavirus situation is affecting traveler sentiments.

SHARE YOUR STORY WITH CONGRESS

In addition to our advocacy in Congress and policy recommendations, U.S. Travel has begun a grassroots engagement initiative for those in the industry who have been directly impacted by this outbreak.

We are inviting you to tell Congress how coronavirus is affecting you and your business by sharing data or anecdotes about decreases in visitation, cancellations, layoffs, reduced hours, reduced room occupancy or anything that can help communicate this message. Please take a few minutes to share these stories with your member of Congress through our action alerts system below. **Your voice is more important now than ever.**

[SHARE YOUR STORY](#)

U.S. TRAVEL RESOURCES

U.S. Travel's [Emergency Preparedness and Response: Coronavirus](#) toolkit contains the latest information and resources from CDC and WHO, along with messaging guidance on how best to respond to this evolving issue. It was last updated on March 17, 2020.

- [NEW: Presidential Guidance on Coronavirus](#)
- [Talking Points for Use with Media](#)
- [A Guide for Communicating Healthy Travel Practices](#)
- [Get the Facts: About COVID-19](#)
- [U.S. Travel's Crisis Readiness Playbook](#)

AROUND THE INDUSTRY: RESOURCES & EXAMPLES

- AAHOA is providing comprehensive [Coronavirus Updates for America's Hotel Owners](#)
- AHLA has made their [recent webinar materials](#) available to all hoteliers, regardless of AHLA membership status
- CDC is hosting a webinar **this Thursday, March 19, at 3:00 p.m. ET**. You can register [at this link](#) and submit questions in advance to eocevent337@cdc.gov.
- Meetings Mean Business [issued a statement](#) on the new federal guidance on large events and mass gatherings
- Meeting Professionals International has a [host of resources](#) on emergency preparedness, recent news and how the meetings industry is responding to the outbreak, as well as a [survey](#) to collect information on event cancellations and their impact around the country—if you have a moment, we encourage you to fill it out
- Visit California's [Coronavirus Industry Update](#) page is updated regularly with talking points, social media graphics and more

RECENT HEADLINES

THE WASHINGTON POST

[Coronavirus Live Updates](#)

March 17, 2020

THE STREET

[Major Airlines Seek \\$58 Billion to Offset Coronavirus Impact](#)

March 17, 2020

NEWSWEEK

[Coronavirus, 2020 Election and the New ID Laws are Brewing a Perfect Storm. Are We Prepared?](#)

March 16, 2020

TRAVEL WEEKLY

[U.S. Extends Travel Restrictions to U.K., Ireland](#)

March 15, 2020

CNBC

[White House Signals Third Relief Bill to Help Airline and Cruise Industries Hit by Coronavirus Pandemic](#)

March 14, 2020

NEWSMAXTV

[Spicer & Co. \(VIDEO\)](#)

March 13, 2020

WASHINGTON BUSINESS JOURNAL

[D.C. to Take a \\$35.5M Hit from Just Five Canceled Events](#)

March 13, 2020

LOS ANGELES TIMES

[Airlines and Cruise Lines Cut Service and Brace for Losses as Coronavirus Spreads](#)

March 12, 2020