



Proclamation on the Suspension of Entry as Immigrants and Nonimmigrants of Certain Additional Persons Who Pose a Risk of Transmitting Coronavirus: What You Need to Know

Updated March 1, 2020

On February 29, 2020, President Trump signed a [Proclamation](#) restricting the entry into the United States of individuals in Iran who may have been exposed to the novel coronavirus ([“COVID-19” is the disease which is caused by the virus, “SARS-CoV-2”](#)). The Proclamation expands on the earlier [Proclamation on Suspension of Entry as Immigrants and Nonimmigrants of Persons who Pose a Risk of Transmitting 2019 Novel Coronavirus](#), which restricted travel to the United States of immigrants and non-immigrants who were physically present in China in the 14 days before their entry into the United States. The new Proclamation took effect at 5:00 p.m. EST on March 2, 2020.

Q: Who is covered by the new Proclamation?

The Proclamation applies to all immigrants and non-immigrants who were physically present in Iran in the 14 days before their entry or attempted entry into the United States.

Immigrants refer to those who are seeking admission to the United States on a permanent basis through a family, employment, or through the Diversity Lottery Program.

Non-immigrants are those who are seeking admission to the United States on a temporary basis, such as business visitors, tourists, students, exchange students, scholars, and temporary workers

Q: Who is exempt from the Proclamation?

- Lawful permanent residents (green card holders) of the United States
- Spouses of U.S. citizens or permanent residents;
- Parents or legal guardians whose U.S. citizen or permanent resident children are under 21 and unmarried;
- Siblings of a U.S. citizen or permanent resident, provided both are under 21 and unmarried.
- Children, foster children, and wards of U.S. citizens or permanent residents, or certain prospective adoptees seeking to enter the United States;
- Individuals traveling at the invitation of the U. S. Government for a purpose related to containment or mitigation of the virus
- Certain air or sea crew traveling to the United States;
- Certain foreign government officials and their family members seeking entry into the United States;
- Individuals whose entry would not pose a significant risk of introducing, transmitting, or spreading the virus, as determined by the CDC Director or his designee;

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- Individuals whose entry would further important United States law enforcement objectives, as determined by the Secretary of State, the Secretary of Homeland Security, or their respective designees based on a recommendation of the Attorney General or his designee;
- Individuals whose entry would be in the national interest, as determined by the Secretary of State or the Secretary of Homeland Security.
- Members of the U.S. Armed Forces and spouses and children of members of the U.S. Armed Forces.

Q: Does the Proclamation affect a person's ability to apply for asylum or related protection?

No. The Proclamation does not affect an individual's eligibility for asylum, withholding of removal, or protection under the Convention Against Torture.

Q: What is the effective date of the travel restrictions?

The effective date of the Proclamation is 5:00 p.m. EST on March 2, 2020. If a flight departed prior to the effective date, the proclamation does not apply to persons aboard a flight scheduled to arrive in the United States. The travel restrictions will remain in place until the President terminates them. Every 15 days, the President will review the travel restrictions with a recommendation from the Secretary of Health and Human Services, and decide whether to continue or terminate them.

Q: What is the rationale for these travel restrictions?

The Proclamation explains that the "CDC has determined that the Islamic Republic of Iran (Iran) is experiencing sustained person-to-person transmission of SARS-CoV-2. As of February 28, 2020, Iran had 388 cases of COVID-19, a significant increase from prior days. In response to that increase, on February 28, 2020, CDC raised its infectious disease alert to level 3, its highest level, which recommends that travelers avoid all nonessential travel to Iran. According to the World Health Organization, as of February 28, 2020, 97 COVID-19 cases have been exported from Iran to 11 other countries."

Further, the Proclamation states that: "The potential for undetected transmission of the virus by infected individuals seeking to enter the United States from Iran threatens the security of our transportation system and infrastructure and the national security."

Q: Where Can I Find More Resources?

Center for Disease Control and Prevention:

<https://wwwnc.cdc.gov/travel/notices/warning/coronavirus-iran>