

## **Travel, border closures and flight cancellations:**

To limit the spread of COVID-19, the Government of Canada advises Canadians to avoid **all non-essential travel outside of Canada** until further notice. Many countries have put in place travel or border restrictions and other measures such as movement restrictions and quarantines. Before travelling, verify if the local authorities of both your current location and destination have implemented any specific restrictions related to this situation.

On Monday March 16<sup>th</sup>, the Prime Minister announced that Canada will be denying entry to people who are not Canadian citizens or permanent residents.

Air operators will prevent all travelers who present symptoms of COVID-19 to board a plane. Air operators will complete a basic health assessment of every air traveler based on guidance from the Public Health Agency of Canada. This means that anyone who has symptoms will not be able to come to Canada.

**The Prime Minister's full statement can be found at the website: [Prime Minister Trudeau's statement on COVID-19 measures](#)**

As well, American and Canadian authorities announced their intention to temporarily restrict all non-essential travel across the US-Canada border. As a result, you will not be allowed to cross the border for recreation or tourism. However, if you cross the border daily to do essential work or if the reason for your travel is essential, you will be able to enter the country

Access and admissibility into Canada is handled by the Canada Border Services Agency (CBSA) and it is their responsibility in collaboration with Public Health Agency Canada to screen travellers. For more information, please visit <https://www.cbsa-asfc.gc.ca/menu-eng.html>.

Several airlines have cancelled flights. New restrictions may be imposed with little warning. Your travel plans may be severely disrupted and you may be forced to remain outside of Canada longer than expected. Ensure that you have sufficient finances and necessities, including medication, in case your travels are disrupted. Canadians who require medication are encouraged to email the nearest Canadian office abroad for a list of hospitals, clinics and pharmacies that could possibly facilitate their request.

**You should not depend on the Government of Canada for assistance related to making changes to your travel arrangements with your service provider. You are encouraged to continue follow ups with your airlines, travel agencies, cruise lines or other travel service providers directly.**

Canadians who are outside of Canada should find out what commercial options are still available to return to Canada and should consider returning to Canada earlier than planned if these options are becoming more limited. Pearson International Airport in Toronto, Vancouver International Airport, Montréal-Pierre Elliott Trudeau International Airport and Calgary International Airport will receive international flights but flights arriving from the US, Mexico and the Caribbean's are still scheduled to land at their intended destinations.

## **Government of Canada to provide financial assistance to Canadians abroad**

See the full statement from the Honourable François-Philippe Champagne, Minister of Foreign Affairs: [Emergency COVID-19 Loan Program](#). **More detailed information and specifics will be available soon.**

Eligible Canadians currently outside Canada who require financial assistance can contact us at [CAN.finances.CV19@international.gc.ca](mailto:CAN.finances.CV19@international.gc.ca).

### **Medical assistance abroad**

**If you think that you are experiencing symptoms of COVID-19 (Coronavirus), contact the local health line and follow instructions of local authorities. If you think you will be running out of prescribed medications, please consult with the local health provider.**

As a first point of contact, Canadians requiring medical assistance abroad should always contact their travel insurance provider for help arranging medical treatment.

The Canadian office nearest to you will be your main point of contact.

Consular officials take the health and well-being of its Canadian citizens seriously. However please note that the Canadian government does not:

- Pay hospital and medical bills.
- Pay for medical evacuations, air ambulance or other similar commercial services.
- Make decisions pertaining to your medical care.
- Interfere in your medical care.
- Provide medical or legal advice.

If you have a medical emergency while abroad, officials at the nearest [Canadian government office](#) can help provide the following services:

- Provide a list of physicians, clinics and hospitals.
- Contact your next of kin or person designated in a power of attorney to make decisions in case of incapacity.
- Assist in contacting your insurance company.
- With your permission, contact your medical doctor in Canada and assist him or her in discussing your medical file with the local treating physician.
- Provide assistance for medical evacuation and safe transfer including liaison with service providers.

Be aware that standards of medical care vary greatly from country to country and even within countries. More choices are generally available in urban rather than rural or remote areas. However, options for specialized treatment may be nonexistent or inadequate in some countries.

### **Upon return to Canada:**

- You must self-isolate for 14 days after your return from travel outside of Canada. Some provinces and territories may have specific recommendations for certain groups such as health care workers.
- Monitor your health for **fever, cough or difficulty breathing**.
- Wash your hands often for 20 seconds and cover your mouth and nose with your arm when coughing or sneezing.

If you develop a **fever, cough or difficulty breathing** within 14 days:

- Continue to isolate yourself from others
- Immediately call a health care professional or [public health authority](#) and:
  - describe your symptoms and travel history
  - follow their instructions carefully

**In addition:** When you return you may be asked to contact the [public health authority](#) in the province or territory where you live or are staying within 24 hours of arriving in Canada and to provide your contact information.

Government of Canada novel coronavirus information line: **1-833-784-4397**

### **Travel advisories, registration and contact information:**

Please note that the Government of Canada provides credible and timely advice in its [Travel Advice and Advisories](#). These reports are regularly reviewed and updated as necessary.

Global Affairs Canada highly encourages Canadian travellers to sign up online to the [Registration of Canadians abroad](#).

### **Emergency Watch and Response Centre (EWRC)**

**Phone:** +1 613 996 8885 (call collect where available) or 1-800-387-3124 (toll-free from the U.S. and Canada only)

**Email:** [sos@international.gc.ca](mailto:sos@international.gc.ca)

The coordinates of our Canadian offices abroad can be consulted on the following [webpage](#).