



## Air Travel Considerations Members of Team USA traveling abroad

June 18, 2020

***The information in this document is not intended or implied to be a substitute for professional medical advice, diagnosis, or treatment. All content, including text, graphics and, images, are provided for general informational purposes only. The knowledge and circumstances around COVID-19 are changing constantly and, as such, the United States Olympic & Paralympic Committee makes no representation and assumes no responsibility for the accuracy or completeness of this information. Further, you should seek advice from medical professionals and/or public health officials if you have specific questions about your health or travel.***

### **Athlete Ombudsman**

The Office of the Athlete Ombudsman is available to provide independent and confidential advice to elite athletes on sport-related rules, policies and processes. Athletes who have specific questions about their health and the risk factors of traveling should seek advice from their medical professionals and public health officials. Athletes may contact the Office of the Athlete Ombudsman at [ombudsman@usathlete.org](mailto:ombudsman@usathlete.org) or 719-866-5000, or visit [here](#) for more information.

### **Travel Advisories**

State Department – [Global Level 4 Health Advisory: Do Not Travel](#)

### **State and Local Travel Restrictions**

Follow state and local travel restrictions. For up-to-date information and travel guidance, check the [state or local health department](#) where you are, along your route and at your planned destination. During your travel, it is possible that a state or local government may implement travel restrictions, such as stay-at-home or shelter-in-place orders, mandated quarantines upon arrival, or even state border closures. Plan to keep checking for updates as you travel.

### **Medical Considerations**

**Prior to scheduling a trip, there are many questions you should consider, including:**

1. Is there active community transmission of COVID-19 where you live, which could lead to you introducing the virus to the location where you are traveling?
2. Is there active community transmission of COVID-19 where you are traveling, which increases your risk of getting infected during your trip and/or taking an infection back to your community?
3. If you get infected, are you at [risk](#) for a more severe infection or do you have close sustained contact with someone who is at risk for a more severe infection (see risk factors below)?
4. Will you be required to quarantine for 14 days at your destination or upon return from your trip?

*If you answered yes to any of these questions, you should consider canceling or delaying your trip.*

The following are risk factors for a more severe infection:

- Age > 65
- Live in a nursing home or long-term care facility
- History of chronic lung disease or moderate to severe asthma
- History of serious heart conditions
- History of compromised immune system
- History of diabetes
- History of chronic kidney disease requiring dialysis
- History of liver disease
- Severe obesity (BMI > 40)



## Air Travel Considerations Members of Team USA traveling abroad

**If you are sick, don't travel. If you choose to travel, here are things you can do to reduce your risk of infection:**

- Wear facial covering
- Consider wearing eyeglasses/eye shields to protect your eyes from respiratory droplets
- Avoid touching your eyes, nose or mouth
- Wash your hands frequently for at least 20 seconds
- Practice physical distancing by staying at least 6 feet away from others
- Cover your coughs and sneezes with a facial tissue or your elbow
- Wipe down arm rests, tray tables, video monitors and seat belts with antiseptic cleanser
- Use hand sanitizer after touching anything that other people may have touched
- Get food from a drive-through, curbside restaurant service or at the store
- Consider cleaning your hotel room with [EPA approved products](#) for COVID-19 using the [CDC's cleaning guidelines](#)

**Since food service isn't as readily available on flights, be sure to bring your own food and water on the plane. The following is a checklist of supplies you should consider bringing with you on your trip:**

- Facial covering
- Eyeglasses/shields
- Hand sanitizer
- Antiseptic wipes
- Additional cleaning supplies for the hotel room
- Food and water
- Medications to last your entire trip

Finally, be sure to review travel related resources from the [CDC](#) and [WHO](#) prior to your trip.

### **Travel Documents**

Routine government processes – both in the U.S. and abroad – are experiencing significant delays due to staff reductions and additional operational adjustments. Please plan as far in advance as possible to ensure that you do not encounter any issues. If you need assistance with any items outlined below, please contact the [USOPC's government relations office](#).

- **Passport** – Passport operations are currently delayed by several months. Please wait to submit any applications, renewals or changes until after normal operations resume.
  - The Department of State intends to resume routine passport processing in phases, which began June 11, 2020. Passport agencies and centers will resume operations based on local conditions. Please monitor the [Passport COVID-19 Status](#) website for updates.
    - 14 of 27 passport locations are currently in Phase I, which permits limited staffing. Appointments are limited to life-or-death emergencies only and routine application processing will begin on a first-in, first-out basis – including applications received before and since March 19, 2020.
    - If you submitted a passport before or since March 19 and have an urgent travel need, please contact the [USOPC's government relations office](#).
- **Visa** – Many Embassies and Consulates have reduced their staff, which may cause application delays or operational changes. Please check with the [respective Embassy or Consulate](#) to monitor their current status.
- **Driver's License** – If your license or state-issued ID expired on or after March 1, 2020, and you are unable to renew your ID, TSA will accept expired licenses up to a year after expiration or 60 days after the duration of the emergency, whichever is longer. The new deadline to obtain a REAL ID-compliant driver's license has been extended to Oct. 1, 2021.



## Air Travel Considerations Members of Team USA traveling abroad

### **Entry/Exit Restrictions**

Entry and exit policies vary by nation and are frequently modified. For the latest information regarding your destination, please visit the [Department of State's Country Specific Information](#) website. When returning to the U.S. from international travel, the CDC states that travelers should stay home for 14 days from the time you returned home.

Please adhere to your state and local policies for any additional guidance.

### **Airlines and Travel**

Airports, airlines, hotels and ride sharing services are evolving their policies and procedures to protect travelers. As you travel, please be mindful of the policies implemented by your airline, accommodations and services that you may be using during your trip.

Many of the major U.S. airlines have agreed to a set of policies that enforce facial coverings aboard their planes. If a passenger opts not to comply with these policies, the airlines have agreed that there will be "consequences for noncompliance." These consequences will be determined by each carrier and may include suspension of flying privileges for that airline.

For example, United Airlines has stated that beginning June 18, flight attendants will notify passengers of the requirement to wear a face covering and offer to provide them with a mask, if needed. If a passenger does not comply, they would be placed on an "internal travel restriction list" and not be allowed to fly on United "for a duration of time to be determined pending a comprehensive incident review."

We encourage you to check with your airline prior to travel for specific requirements.

A few helpful resources to monitor current policies are listed below:

- [CTM Airline and Travel Update Summary](#)
- [Airline Policy Waivers](#)
- [United Airlines - Rebooking Due to Crowded Flights](#)
- [United Airlines CleanPlus](#)
- [IHG Clean Promise](#)
- [How to Clean a Suitcase](#)
- [How to Disinfect a Hotel Room](#)
- [TSA's Tips for Flying During COVID-19](#)
- [TSA Coronavirus Updates](#)

As with all travel, please also be sure to register with the [Department of State's STEP](#) service to enroll your trip with the nearest U.S. Embassy or Consulate.

Additional links:

- [REAL ID Details and Extension](#)
- [Team USA Coronavirus Updates](#)
- [Dept. of State COVID-19 Passport Operations](#)
- [Dept. of State COVID-19 Visa Services](#)
- [CDC Return from International Travel](#)
- [Dept. of State COVID-19 Traveler Information](#)
- [DHS U.S./Canada/Mexico Border Fact Sheet](#)
- [DHS Arrival Restrictions](#)