



The Commonwealth of Massachusetts
Executive Office of Health and Human Services
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MEMORANDUM

TO: Local Boards of Health
FROM: Dr. Catherine Brown, DVM, MSc, MPH, State Epidemiologist
DATE: March 4, 2020
RE: Revised CDC guidance regarding returning travelers from Level 2 and 3 countries

The US Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) announced [revised guidance regarding travelers to Level 2 and 3 countries](#) returning to the US and recommended procedures for reducing the risk of transmission of the virus associated with COVID-19). The CDC link is also here: <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/travelers> (click on the travel notice beside each country).

Change in guidance for returnees from Level 2 and 3 countries:

- Returning travelers from Level 3 countries other than China and Iran (currently Italy and South Korea) are asked to self-quarantine ("stay home") for 14 days since the date of entry to the United States and self-monitor for symptoms consistent with COVID-19. CDC's Division of Global Migration and Quarantine (DGMQ) will **NOT** be providing traveler information on returnees from these countries to states. DPH will **NOT** be asking local health departments to educate these travelers on self-quarantine nor actively monitor these individuals during their 14-day quarantine period.
- Returning travelers from Level 2 countries (currently Japan) are asked to limit contact with others and self-monitor for symptoms. DGMQ will **NOT** be providing traveler information on returnees from level 2 countries to states. DPH will **NOT** be asking local health departments to educate these travelers on self-monitoring.

Reminder of guidance already in place:

Foreign nationals may not travel from China or Iran to the United States. US residents returning from these countries will continue to be identified for state health departments by DGMQ and DPH will continue to request local health department assistance in monitoring these returnees and supporting them to self-quarantine for 14 days.

CDC recommends everyone avoid all non-essential travel to Level 3 countries (currently China, Iran, Italy, and South Korea) and that older individuals and those with chronic health conditions avoid non-essential travel to Level 2 countries (currently Japan).

Travelers with questions should call the 24/7 Epi Line: 617-983-6800. DPH will be conducting weekly conference calls with local boards of health starting next week. Call information will be forthcoming.

The Department will share further guidance as it becomes available.

Thank you again for your partnership.