

**NEWS RELEASE**

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## **Travel Restrictions on U.S. Southern Border**

**DOUGLAS, ARIZ. – March 20, 2020.** At a White House briefing on Friday, the Trump administration announced that the United States and Mexico have arrived at an agreement to set temporary travel restrictions on non-essential travel across the US-Mexico border. The action comes as the administration ramps up its efforts to curb the spread of the coronavirus. The order will go into effect at 12:00 a.m. on March 21.

Administration officials explained that essential commercial activities will not be impacted. According to the Department of Homeland security, travel along the US-Mexico border shall be limited to "essential travel" which includes, but is not limited to:

- U.S. citizens and lawful permanent residents returning to the United States
- Individuals traveling for medical purposes (e.g., to receive medical treatment in the United States)
- Individuals traveling to attend educational institutions
- Individuals traveling to work in the United States
- Individuals traveling for emergency response and public health purposes (e.g., emergency responders entering the US to support government efforts to respond to COVID-19 or other emergencies)
- Individuals engaged in lawful cross-border trade (e.g., truck drivers supporting the movement of cargo)
- Individuals engaged in official government travel or diplomatic travel
- Members of U.S. Armed Forces, and the spouses and children of members of the U.S. Armed Forces, returning to the United States
- Individuals engaged in military-related travel or operations

"Non-essential" travel includes travel that is considered tourism or recreational in nature. This order also allows U.S. Customs and Border Protection to turn away asylum seekers or migrants lacking proper legal documentation.

The restrictions are temporary in nature and will remain in effect until 11:59 p.m. EDT on April 20, 2020.

If you have questions, please contact U.S. Customs and Border Protection at (877) 227-5511.