

2019 Novel Coronavirus (COVID-19):

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and Customs and Border Protection Screening Protocols for Flight and Cabin Crews at U.S. Ports of Entry

February 18, 2020

Health Screening Protocols for Flight and Cabin Crews upon Arrival in the U.S. after having been in China within the Last 14 Days:

The following provides information regarding the health screening protocols for various categories of flight and cabin crewmembers on arrival at U.S. airport Ports of Entry (POEs) after having been in China within the last 14 days. However, it is important to note that any flight or cabin crewmember, regardless of status, who is exhibiting signs of illness, will be referred for CDC health screening.

U.S.-based and non-China-based foreign flight and cabin crewmembers, including crewmembers on deadhead transportation regardless of air carrier, but excluding crewmembers on deadhead transportation for purposes of attending training, are exempt from both entry restrictions and health screening protocols. They are under the direction and supervision of their air carrier's occupational health program. The FAA and CDC have provided interim health guidance for air carriers supervising the self-monitoring of U.S.-based and non-China-based foreign flight and cabin crew members who have had layovers in China within the last 14 days, as well as for the crewmembers themselves. See [Safety Alert for Operators 20001: 2019 Novel Coronavirus: Interim Health Guidance for Air Carrier and Crews](#). As such, they do not require health screening by CDC at U.S. POEs, unless they exhibit signs of illness. U.S.-based and non-China-based foreign flight and cabin crewmembers on personal travel are not exempt from health screening protocols and are treated like any other member of the general public for health screening purposes.

China-based flight and cabin crewmembers on passenger flights who arrive at a U.S. POE are exempt from entry restrictions; however, they are subject to health screening protocols for crew on passenger flights arriving at funneling airports. For these crews, CDC will conduct an expedited screening for fever (temperature check) and respiratory symptoms (visual observation and verbal question). CDC can conduct this expedited crew health screening separately from passengers. No locator forms are needed for these flight and cabin crewmembers, because the airline will have their contact information. CBP should notify the CDC quarantine station at the POE in advance of China-based passenger flight arrivals, so that CDC staff will be ready to expedite symptom screening of flight and crewmembers.

The rationale for expediting flight and cabin crewmember screening separately from passengers is to avoid delaying connecting flight legs (if applicable) and to avoid impacts to mandated crew rest time.

These flight and cabin crew screening protocols do not apply to other China-based crewmembers (i.e., crewmembers of cargo flights, crewmembers on flights arriving outside funneling airports), unless they exhibit signs of illness. These other crewmembers should remain under the supervision of their air carrier's occupational health and safety program and follow the CDC/FAA health guidance. See [Safety Alert for Operators 20001: 2019 Novel Coronavirus: Interim Health Guidance for Air Carrier and Crews.](#)