



MARCH 20: COVID-19 UPDATE

The Port of Seattle has been responding to the outbreak of [2019 Novel Coronavirus \(COVID-19\)](#) since public health officials confirmed the first case of the virus in the United States in Washington state.

This weekly update summarizes Port actions to maintain the health, safety, and well-being of our employees, travelers, and community, while maintaining essential operations.

Information changes rapidly. Please bookmark [our website](#) and social media channels daily. Information changes rapidly so please bookmark or follow these resources.

IN CASE YOU MISSED IT: This week, Commission President Peter Steinbrueck, Executive Director Steve Metruck, and Managing Director Lance Lyttle [hosted a briefing for media](#) about the work happening to maintain airport operations. They also took questions about cruise and the status of other Port work.

Actions and protocols at Port of Seattle facilities



AT SEATTLE-TACOMA INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT (SEA)

- SEA is open and operating, but it is not business as usual right now. People are traveling less. Airlines operating at SEA suspended flights to mainland China (Beijing and Shanghai), Osaka, Amsterdam and Paris and reduced service to destinations such as Seoul, Singapore, Hong Kong, Taipei, Tokyo, Dubai, Dublin, London, and Frankfurt. The federal government instituted travel restrictions on China, Iran, the UK, Ireland, and 26 other European countries.
- The Port installed 150 hand sanitizers with 100 more to go in the skybridges, common use ticket kiosks areas, the 3rd floor garage areas and rental car bus stops. [Check the SEA App for an interactive map](#) of hand sanitizer locations.

- [Here's how the Port is keeping our facilities clean and safe](#)

- We added good hygiene and best practices messages to our skybridges, our checkpoints, our international arrivals areas, and public address overhead announcements in multiple languages.
- To help prevent the spread of travel-related cases of coronavirus in the U.S., the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) issued a notice of arrival restrictions outlining the process for American citizens, legal permanent residents, and their immediate families who are returning home after recently visiting certain European countries, China, and Iran. Arrival protocols change frequently; [follow DHS for the latest information](#).
- Airport dining and retail tenants are open with reduced operating hours and food service. Restaurants are only open for grab-and-go and food orders to go. Passengers cannot sit in certain seating areas or at the bars. Some shops and restaurants have temporarily suspended operations. [Latest blog on dining and retail adjustments](#).
- The live music program is suspended until the end of March.
- Effective on March 21, 2020, SEA Visitor Pass is temporarily suspended.



Hand sanitizer and signage at SEA



AT MARITIME FACILITIES

- The Port announced the [cancellation of the April 1 and April 5 planned sailings](#) of the Seattle 2020 cruise season.
- The decision to delay the launch of the 2020 cruise season came after reviewing multiple options with our cruise operators, the United States Coast Guard, public health authorities, and local leaders.
- [Princess Cruise Lines](#) announced a 60-day suspension of its global operations. Royal [Royal Caribbean](#) and affiliated brands, as well as Norwegian Cruise Line, announced 30-day suspension of cruise operations.
- The Port will continue working with first responders, cruise lines, and local leaders, and consider current public health guidance, as well as enhanced actions that the cruise lines are undertaking, to determine future sailings.
- Implemented daily enhanced cleaning protocols at maritime and marine maintenance facilities.



FOR EMPLOYEES AND COMMUNITY PARTNERS

- Beginning with the Commission meeting on March 24, we will not accept any in-person public comment, but members of the public may submit virtual comments via email or telephone.
- Moving meetings and information sessions to virtual platforms or postponing; extending deadlines for grant applications or other community programs where appropriate.
- Optimizing telework for our Port workforce. Reducing the number of employees in the office reduces the potential for the spread of infection for those who need to be in the office.
- Creating public videos about COVID-19 response and making them available to all [airport employees](#) via YouTube.
- Printing a COVID-19 fact sheet for airport employees, translated into multiple languages.
- Coordinating regional emergency response with the state, county, city, and other leaders.



COVID-19 response [videos on YouTube](#)



HOW YOU CAN STAY HEALTHY

- Public health officials recommend personal hygiene and frequent hand washing as the best way to prevent illness.
- Wash your hands frequently, cover your mouth and nose with a tissue when you cough or sneeze, then throw the tissue in the trash and wash your hands.
- Avoid contact with people who are sick and stay home when sick.
- Avoid touching your eyes, nose or mouth with unwashed hands.
- If you are travelling overseas, follow [the CDC's guidance](#).
- Check in with your airline if you have questions about your travel itinerary.
- While not protective against novel coronavirus, public health officials also recommend the influenza vaccine. It's not too late to get an influenza vaccine, since flu season can last into spring.