

Traveling During the COVID-19 Pandemic TSA GUIDELINES

Travelers are reminded to follow the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) travel guidance regarding COVID-19. Travelers are also encouraged to:

- Practice good hygiene, such as washing your hands regularly, including directly before and after completing the security screening process.
- Maintain a social distance of six feet wherever possible.
- Remove belts and all personal items from your pockets such as wallets, keys or phones before you enter the checkpoint queue and place them in your carry-on bag. (Does not apply to TSA PreCheck™ members.)
- Wear a face covering during the screening process. You may be asked to adjust your mask for ID verification or to remove it for secondary screening.
- Remove food items from carry-on bags and place in bin for screening. (Does not apply to TSA PreCheck™ members.)

Travelers may be directed outside of the checkpoint to remove or repack items (e.g., laptops, liquids, gels, aerosols and large electronics).

Employees or travelers who believe they may have been in contact with a person who has COVID-19 should consult with their healthcare provider. Employees or travelers who have tested positive for COVID-19 should seek medical attention and follow the guidance of their healthcare provider and local health department.

Security Checkpoints

While security is TSA's top priority, the health and safety of our employees and the traveling public is of utmost importance to us. TSA remains in close communication with medical professionals, the CDC, and various government agencies as we continue to carry out our important mission. Below are some adjustments TSA has made at checkpoints to make the security screening process safer:

- **Passenger Volumes**

TSA is consolidating its screening operations to adjust for reduced flight and passenger volumes. Impacted security checkpoints may close as a result, so passengers may be redirected to other security screening checkpoints at the airport.

Social Distancing

TSA has implemented procedures to increase social distancing and reduce direct contact between our employees and the traveling public whenever possible – without compromising security. Adjustments include increasing distance between passengers as they enter the security checkpoint queue, placing visual reminders of appropriate spacing on checkpoint floors, and staggering the use of lanes in the security checkpoint where feasible.

- **Reduced Physical Contact**

TSA is implementing a phased installation of plastic shielding at points of interaction between passengers and TSA officers (e.g., checkpoint, checked baggage drop-off, etc.). Also, travelers maintain possession of their IDs and boarding passes, place on the reader, and hold up to the TSA officer for visual inspection.

- **Personal Protective Equipment**

TSA officers are required to wear face coverings and gloves. They may also choose to wear eye protection or clear plastic face shields. In addition, TSA officers change their gloves following each pat-down and upon passenger request.

- **Cleaning and Disinfecting**

TSA has increased the frequency and intensity of cleaning and disinfecting of frequently touched surfaces and security screening equipment, including bins. TSA officers also use new Explosives Trace Detection swabs for each person.

- **Medical Exemption for Hand Sanitizer**

TSA is allowing one liquid hand sanitizer container, up to 12 ounces per passenger, in carry-on bags until further notice. Since these containers exceed the standard allowance typically permitted through a checkpoint, they will need to be screened separately. This will add some time to your checkpoint screening experience. Please keep in mind that all other liquids, gels and aerosols brought to a checkpoint continue to be limited to 3.4 ounces or 100 milliliters carried in a one quart-size bag.

Expired Driver's License and REAL ID Extension



If your driver's license or state-issued ID expired on or after March 1, 2020, and you are unable to renew at your state driver's license agency, you may still use it as acceptable identification at the checkpoint. TSA will accept expired driver's licenses or state-issued ID a year after expiration. DHS recently announced an extension of time to obtain a REAL ID-compliant driver's license. The new deadline is October 1, 2021.