



MARCH 16 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.

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

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

Actions and protocols at Port of Seattle facilities



AT SEATTLE-TACOMA INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT (SEA)

- The Port implemented enhanced disinfection protocols in high-touch areas, on buses, and throughout the airport.
- The Port installed 119 hand sanitizers in the skybridges, common use ticket kiosks areas, the 3rd floor garage areas and rental car bus stops; an additional 200 dispensers will come soon. Check the SEA App for an interactive map of hand sanitizer locations.
 - [Here's how the Port is keeping our facilities clean and safe](#)
 - [Traveling right now? Find the closest hand sanitizer to your gate](#)
- We added good hygiene and best practices messages to our skybridges, our checkpoints, our international arrivals areas, and are recording overhead announcements in multiple languages.
- The CDC, Customs and Border Protection Agency, the Port fire department, and other airport partners follow infectious disease response plans when we receive reports of a potentially ill passenger.
- No passengers coming through Seattle-Tacoma International Airport have required state quarantine.
- Airport dining and retail tenants are operating with reduced hours. Bars and certain seating areas are closed; restaurants are only open for grab-and-go and to-go orders.



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

- Adjusting our Commission meeting public testimony protocol to allow members of the public to make comment in person, via email, or telephone. Staff and outside participants can make their presentation to Commissioners in person, via phone, or postpone to a future meeting.
- 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.