



February 16, 2018

Dear Colleague,

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), in collaboration with the U.S. Department of Homeland Security (DHS), manages federal air travel restriction tools, the Do Not Board (DNB) and Public Health Lookout (PHLO), to protect travelers and the public from communicable diseases that may be transmitted during travel and constitute a public health threat.

The enclosed "CDC Guidance for Travel Restrictions and State and Local Health Departments' Roles and Responsibilities" was developed to assist state and local public health officials in requesting a DNB and PHLO for individuals who have a communicable disease constituting a public health threat and who are believed to disregard or be unaware of public health recommendations against travel via commercial airlines or internationally.

We hope you will find the attached guidance and checklist useful as you assess the need for federal public health travel restrictions. The application of these tools requires cooperation and support across federal, state, and local jurisdictions and each jurisdiction plays a critical role in ensuring successful implementation.

If you would like more information or would like to request a conference call to discuss a potential travel restriction, please contact the CDC Quarantine Station with jurisdiction for your region. A list of CDC Quarantine Stations, their contact information, and respective jurisdictions is available at <https://www.cdc.gov/quarantine/quarantinestationcontactlistfull.html>. If you are unable to reach a Quarantine Public Health Officer, please call the CDC Emergency Operations Center at (770) 488-7100, which is open 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, and ask to speak to the quarantine station duty officer.

Thank you for your ongoing support of efforts to control communicable diseases.

Sincerely,

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Captain, US PHS
Director, Global Migration and Quarantine
National Center for Emerging and Zoonotic Infectious Diseases
Centers for Disease Control and Prevention

Enclosure



CDC Guidance for Travel Restrictions

Role of CDC's Division of Global Migration and Quarantine (DGMQ)

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC)'s Division of Global Migration and Quarantine (DGMQ) is responsible for coordinating, reviewing, and tracking all activities related to federal air travel restrictions and border interventions issued for public health purposes. Air travel restriction and border intervention tools aid in the prevention of the introduction, transmission, and spread of communicable diseases and are implemented by the U.S. Department of Homeland Security (DHS) at the request of CDC's DGMQ, in consultation with state and local public health departments. Successful implementation of these tools requires cooperation and support across federal, state, and local jurisdictions. The federal government, including CDC's DGMQ, must work closely with state and local public health departments to successfully apply air travel restrictions and border interventions. Please direct all questions related to federal air travel restrictions and border interventions to the CDC Quarantine Station for your region (<https://www.cdc.gov/quarantine/quarantinestationcontactlistfull.html>).

Travel Restriction Tools

The Do Not Board (DNB) allows domestic and international public health officials to request that individuals with communicable diseases who meet specific criteria be restricted from boarding commercial flights that arrive into, depart from, or fly within the United States. This includes domestic and international flights. Once an individual is placed on the DNB list, airlines are instructed not to issue a boarding pass to the individual. The individual stays on the list until he/she is no longer considered infectious or there is no longer a risk of becoming infectious.

A Public Health Lookout (PHLO) is created at the same time to ensure that an individual placed on the DNB is detected if he or she attempts to enter the United States through any port of entry (e.g., seaport or land border crossing). The Lookout prompts Customs and Border Protection staff to notify CDC if an individual on the list arrives in the United States, so that the individual can be evaluated and referred for additional public health follow-up if needed.

Travel Restriction Criteria

2015 Revised Criteria

- The individual is known or reasonably believed to be infectious or reasonably believed to have been exposed to a communicable disease and may become infectious with a communicable disease that would be a public health threat should the individual be permitted to board a commercial aircraft or travel in a manner that would expose the public

AND at least one of the following:

- The individual is not aware of his or her diagnosis, has been advised regarding the diagnosis and is non-compliant with public health requests or has shown potential for non-compliance, or is unable to be located

OR

- The individual is at risk of traveling on a commercial flight or of traveling internationally by any means

OR

- The individual's placement on the DNB is necessary to effectively respond to outbreaks of communicable disease or other conditions of public health concern. For example, an individual's placement on the DNB may be considered when necessary to aid in the application of controlled movement or in the execution of a federal, state, or local quarantine, isolation, or conditional release order.



Diseases Considered for Travel Restrictions

To date, the DNB/PHLO has been used for confirmed or suspect cases of infectious tuberculosis or measles, and exposures to Middle Eastern respiratory syndrome coronavirus or viral hemorrhagic fever. However, the DNB/PHLO can be considered for ANY communicable disease that may pose a risk to travelers.

Requesting a Travel Restriction

State and local public health authorities may request a conference call for a potential travel restriction case if they are concerned about a traveler with an infectious disease or exposure that may pose a risk to others, or may obtain more information about the process, by contacting the CDC Quarantine Station with jurisdiction over their region. A listing of CDC Quarantine Stations, their contact information, and jurisdictions is available online at:

<http://www.cdc.gov/quarantine/quarantinestationcontactlistfull.html>.

If public health authorities are unable to reach someone at the Quarantine Station, they may call the CDC Emergency Operations Center (EOC) at (770) 488-7100 to reach the quarantine station duty officer. International health officials should call the EOC directly for information about or to request a travel restriction for public health purposes.

Information Needed for Addition to the DNB and PHLO Lists

At the time of request for a travel restriction the state or local health department will be asked to provide identifying information such as name, date of birth, passport and visa information, if available, as well as medical history/documentation related to the disease or exposure of interest. CDC will also need to know about any relevant travel history or future travel plans, evidence supporting the travel restriction criteria, and whether any state or local actions have been taken, such as issuing of an isolation or treatment order.

After Addition to the DNB and PHLO Lists

CDC reviews all cases at a minimum of every two weeks and suggests that local and state health departments do the same to determine whether an individual should be removed from the DNB/PHLO lists. A longer interval between reviews may be appropriate, depending on the case.

If an individual on the DNB/PHLO lists attempts to obtain a boarding pass or enter through a land border, CDC will notify the health department with jurisdiction for the port of entry to coordinate the response.

Criteria for Removal of Individuals from the DNB and PHLO Lists

The only criterion used to decide whether an individual can be removed from the DNB/PHLO lists is whether he or she remains infectious or is no longer at risk of developing an infectious disease. For individuals with pulmonary tuberculosis (TB), clinical indicators to assess contagiousness have been developed in consultation with subject-matter experts (SME) in CDC's Division of Tuberculosis Elimination (DTBE). These indicators include an assessment of contagiousness based on clinical, radiographic, and microbiologic evaluation and drug susceptibility tests; treatment adequacy; and mycobacteriologic response (sputum smear microscopy and culture results). These indicators are derived from existing general guidance on the prevention of TB transmission and guidance specific to air travel. For situations in which multidrug-resistant TB (MDR TB) is confirmed or suspected, more stringent requirements (evidence of negative culture results) are applied, because the consequences of transmission are substantially more severe.



Related Articles

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). Federal air travel restrictions for public health purposes—United States, June 2007-May 2008. *MMWR Morb Mortal Wkly Rep.* 2008;57:1009–12.

Cohen NJ, Brown CM, Alvarado-Ramy F, Bair-Brake H, Benenson GA, Chen T-H, et al. Travel and border health measures to prevent the international spread of Ebola. *MMWR Suppl.* 2016;65:57–67.

Jungerman MR, Vonnahme LA, Washburn F, Alvarado-Ramy F. Federal travel restrictions to prevent disease transmission in the United States: An analysis of requested travel restrictions. *Travel Med Infect Dis.* 2017;18:30–5.

Regan JJ, Jungerman R, Montiel SH, Newsome K, Objio T, Washburn F, et al.; Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). Public health response to commercial airline travel of a person with Ebola virus infection - United States, 2014. *MMWR Morb Mortal Wkly Rep.* 2015;64:63–6.

Vonnahme, L. A., Jungerman, M., Gulati, R. K., Illig, P., & Alvarado-Ramy, F. (2017). US Federal Travel Restrictions for Persons with Higher-Risk Exposures to Communicable Diseases of Public Health Concern. *Emerging Infectious Diseases*, 23(13). <https://dx.doi.org/10.3201/eid2313.170386>



State and Local Health Departments' Roles and Responsibilities

Before Requesting a Travel Restriction

- ☐ Review the criteria for addition to Do Not Board and Public Health Lookout list:

- The individual is known or reasonably believed to be infectious or reasonably believed to have been exposed to a communicable disease and may become infectious with a communicable disease that would be a public health threat should the individual be permitted to board a commercial aircraft or travel in a manner that would expose the public

AND at least one of the following:

- The individual is not aware of his or her diagnosis, has been advised regarding the diagnosis and is non-compliant with public health requests or has shown potential for non-compliance, or is unable to be located

OR

- The individual is at risk of traveling on a commercial flight or of traveling internationally by any means

OR

- The individual's placement on the DNB is necessary to effectively respond to outbreaks of communicable disease or other conditions of public health concern. For example, an individual's placement on the DNB may be considered when necessary to aid in the application of controlled movement or in the execution of a federal, state, or local quarantine, isolation, or conditional release order.

Requesting a Travel Restriction

- ☐ Contact the CDC Quarantine Station that has jurisdiction for your area
<https://www.cdc.gov/quarantine/quarantinestationcontactlistfull.html>. If unable to reach the Quarantine Station, call the CDC Emergency Operations Center at 404-488-7100 and ask to speak to the quarantine station duty officer.
- ☐ Ensure the following information about the individual is available to facilitate placement of the DNB/PHLO:
 - Identifying information including: full name, any name variations and aliases, date of birth, nationality, available identification numbers (passport, social security, alien registration, driver's license, etc.)
 - Clinical history, including radiologic and laboratory test results, treatment
 - Social history, including housing and family situation
 - Prior efforts of the local or state health department to achieve adherence
 - Evidence supporting intention to travel
- ☐ Suggest date(s) and time(s) you are available for a conference call.
 - Invitees should include required state and local participants
 - CDC participants will include a Quarantine Medical Officer, travel restriction SME and quarantine station staff.
 - CDC may consult disease-specific SMEs and invite them to join the call as needed.

Conference Call

- ☐ CDC travel restriction SMEs will review travel restriction criteria and tools DNB and PHLO
- ☐ State and/or local health department representative(s) will review clinical and social history, health department interventions and risk for travel



- ☐ Participants will discuss next steps in case management and DNB/PHLO action, the preferred response approach if the DNB/PHLO listed individual presents at a port of entry, and triggers for future action if DNB/PHLO are not immediately warranted.
- ☐ Participants will agree on requirements for removal from the DNB/PHLO list before the individual's placement on the list

NOTE: Not all conference calls lead to a DNB/PHLO; other interventions may be explored before placement.

Follow-Up and Periodic Review of a Do Not Board/Lookout Action

- ☐ If individual is placed on the DNB/PHLO list, state and/or local health department representative(s) will need to inform the individual verbally, if possible.
 - o CDC Quarantine Station staff will send an official letter to the last known address.
- ☐ State and/or local health department representative(s) should review the criteria for removal with the individual, assist the individual in meeting requirements for removal, and provide updates to CDC Quarantine Station staff.
- ☐ CDC Quarantine Station staff will also contact state and/or local health department representative(s) regularly for updates (approximately every 2 weeks).

Removing a Person from the Do Not Board/Lookout List

- ☐ Notify the CDC Quarantine Station as soon as the established criteria for DNB/PHLO removal are met.
 - o Provide documentation of lab results and treatment, if applicable and available.
- ☐ Conference call is not required unless requested by the state and/or local health department(s).
- ☐ CDC travel restriction SME and Quarantine Medical Officer will review and determine if individual is eligible for removal.
- ☐ If removal is approved, inform the individual verbally once the DNB/PHLO has been rescinded.
 - o CDC Quarantine Station staff will send an official letter via FedEx Overnight informing the person that he or she has been removed from the travel restriction list.

If you would like to obtain more information about the process, including a timeline for these actions, or if you need to request a conference call to discuss a potential case, please contact the CDC Quarantine Station with jurisdiction for your region.