

CDC Updates 3-25-20

Updates to Guidance and Resources

[Interim Guidelines for Collecting, Handling, and Testing Clinical Specimens from Persons for Coronavirus Disease 2019 \(COVID-19\)](#)

Revisions were made on March 24, 2020 to reflect the following:

- Allowance for self- or healthcare worker-collected nasal swabs as an acceptable specimen type if NP swab is not possible
- Allowance for self- or healthcare worker-collected nasal turbinate swabs as an acceptable specimen type if NP swab is not possible
- Updated infection control link to [COVID-specific guidance](#)

[Resources for Hospitals and Healthcare Professionals Preparing for Patients with Suspected or Confirmed COVID-19](#)

To aid healthcare professionals and hospitals, CDC has developed two checklists that identify key actions that can be taken now to enhance preparedness for potential or confirmed patients with coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19).

[Healthcare Professional Preparedness Checklist For Transport and Arrival of Patients With Confirmed or Possible COVID-19](#)

Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) Burn Rate Calculator

The [personal protective equipment \(PPE\) burn rate calculator excel icon\[XLS – 39 KB\]](#) is a spreadsheet-based model that provides information for healthcare facilities to plan and optimize the use of PPE for response to coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19). Similarly, non-healthcare facilities (e.g., correctional facilities) may find this tool useful for planning and optimizing PPE use as part of the response to COVID-19. This tool can also be used for planning PPE use outside the context of COVID-19, where PPE shortages may also occur due to supply chain issues related to the COVID-19 response (e.g. manufacturing facilities).

Traveler Links

[Coronavirus Disease 2019 Information for Travel \(New Travel Alerts\)](#)

[Travelers Returning from Cruise Ship and River Cruise Voyages](#)

CDC recommends that all people defer travel on cruise ships, including river cruises, worldwide. That's because the risk of COVID-19 on cruise ships is high. Older adults and people with serious chronic medical conditions, such as heart disease, diabetes, or lung disease, should especially defer travel on cruise ships, including river cruises, because of their increased risk for severe disease.

Passengers who return from a cruise ship or river cruise voyage are advised to stay home for 14 days, monitor their health, and practice social distancing.

CDC has issued a [Level 3 Travel Health Notice](#) for cruise ship travel.

[Travelers Returning from High Risk Countries](#)

Depending on your travel history, you will be asked to stay home for a period of 14 days from the time you left an area with widespread or ongoing community spread (Level 3 Travel Health Notice).

Countries that have a [Level 3 Travel Health Notice](#) (widespread, ongoing transmission):

[COVID-19 Travel Recommendations by Country](#)

Number Updates

[Cases in U.S.](#) WEDNESDAY, MARCH 25, 2020

[Testing in the U.S.](#) WEDNESDAY, MARCH 25, 2020

[Global case numbers are reported by the World Health Organization \(WHO\)](#)