Health, Safety and Travel During the Ongoing COVID-19 Pandemic
Hilary Godwin • May 28, 2020
Why has the COVID-19 pandemic been so challenging?

Each type of test has its own limitations.

- **PCR-based or antigen tests** indicate whether currently infected *only if* high viral load.
- **Antibody-based tests** indicate whether previously infected but *not* whether immune to further infection.
What we know about how COVID is transmitted

UW HR's COVID-19 Employment Accommodation for High-Risk Employees

https://www.world-heart-federation.org/resources/covid-19-transmission/
Measures that we know reduce risk of transmission of COVID-19

It is particularly important to protect individuals at higher risk for severe symptoms.
How this specifically relates to air travel

Critical to:
• Maintain social distancing in airport and on planes
• Require employees and travelers to wear face coverings
• Require HEPA filtration systems to be used on ALL planes
• Frequently disinfect high-touch surfaces and provide ready access to hand sanitizer
• Thoroughly disinfect planes between flights
• Provide additional warnings for high-risk individuals
Protecting public health and safety is a right reserved to the states under federalism.
Example: Washington State’s Phased Approach

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Phase</th>
<th>Description</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>High-Risk Populations: Continue to Stay Home, Stay Healthy</td>
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<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Recreation: Some outdoor recreation (hunting, fishing, golf, boating, hiking)</td>
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<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>Gatherings (social, spiritual): Gather with no more than 5 people outside your household per week</td>
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<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>Travel: Only essential travel</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Business/Employers**
- Essential businesses open
- Existing businesses that meet criteria
- Limited capacity
- Health and safety
- Social distancing
- Cleaning
- Personal care and beauty

**High-Risk Populations**
- Allowing public interactions, with physical distancing

**Recreational Facilities**
- Outdoor group rec. sports activities (10-50 people)
- Recreational facilities at <50% capacity (gym pools, etc.)

**Gatherings**
- Allowing gatherings with no more than 50 people

**Travel**
- Limited non-essential travel within proximity of your home

**County Requirements**
- Counties allowed to apply to move to next phase when they have met requirements

- Each phase will last a minimum of three weeks
- Exact triggers/metrics for moving to next phase (or reinstating restrictions) still TBD
- Counties allowed to apply to move to next phase when they have met requirements

*Source: https://www.governor.wa.gov/news-media/chart-washingtons-phased-approach*
Nonetheless, there are critical roles for federal government and need for national guidance

- Managing supply chain for essential items (e.g., test kits, PPE, face coverings)
- Providing guidance for interstate and international travel
- Setting national standards/making available tools for contact tracing and associated data collection and sharing
- Issuing protections for our nation’s most vulnerable (e.g., residents in long-term care facilities)
- Providing fiscal relief for states, local governments, businesses and individuals
How this specifically relates to air travel

Critical need for:

• National guidance for safe practices in airports and on airplanes so that travelers can expect consistently safe experiences as they travel to/from different states in the U.S.
• National repository for flight manifests that includes contact information for all travelers that all local health jurisdictions can access for contact tracing
• National communications campaign for employees and travelers about the importance of adhering to all of these measures both in airports and on planes