

MEDIA TALKING POINTS

U.S. TRAVEL STATEMENT ON LATEST TRAVEL RESTRICTIONS - (MARCH 14, 2020)

“The public’s health and safety is priority No. 1, and we hope the aggressive steps taken by the federal government succeed in putting the moment of greatest concern behind us. Hearing of the need to further expand travel restrictions—especially the inclusion of our No. 1 overseas source market, the UK—is obviously not the development the U.S. travel industry was hoping for. Aggressive steps will also be needed to address the health of the U.S. economy, the small businesses that make up 83% of all U.S. travel employers, and the 15.8 million travel-supported jobs that are going to feel a catastrophic impact from coronavirus.”

TALKING POINTS FOR USE WITH MEDIA - (AS OF MARCH 16, 2020 | 8:30 A.M. EDT)

- This is a very difficult time, and we hope everyone around the world is listening to the guidance of public health authorities and taking all the necessary precautions to keep themselves and their communities safe.
- The health and wellbeing of the public is first and foremost, and our industry is happy to see strong actions to address it, such as the initial \$8.3 billion federal supplemental spending bill.
- Obviously people are affected by coronavirus—but we also have to consider how they will be affected by the resulting economic fallout.
- The impact on the travel industry and the whole U.S. economy is going to be very significant, and there must be policy steps to address that.
- 15.8 million Americans—1 out of every 10 U.S. workers—depend on the travel industry for their jobs.
- The first workers to feel the impact will be lower-wage employees who can least afford to lose their jobs.
- 83% of travel companies are small businesses, and if they can’t afford to keep their business open their employees won’t get paid.
- **Washington should take immediate policy steps to mitigate the fallout on the U.S. economy and workforce.**
 - *[IF ASKED FOR SPECIFICS:*
 - *Employee retention tax credit*
 - *Defer tax liability for businesses*
 - *Allow for a net operating loss carryback for five years*
 - *Consider creative ways to ensure employers have access to capital*
 - *CAN REFER TO U.S. TRAVEL FOR FURTHER DETAILS.]*
- At the right moment, the government should look at proactive steps to get people traveling to and within the U.S. to shorten what will otherwise be a much longer recovery time.
- According to U.S. Travel Association economists, in March of 2019:
 - *More than 1.2 million visitors entered the United States from Europe.*
 - *Those visitors spent \$5 billion.*
 - *Represented 29% of total overseas arrivals to the U.S.*
- Travel-related businesses are taking extraordinary safety measures to stay open and welcome guests.