



Frequently Asked Questions about COVID & Flying

1. **Why aren't you shutting down the airport?**

Our airport provides essential transportation services to our community and will remain open to serve those who need to travel. If you are traveling for essential business, to care for family members or to return home to West Michigan, know that we are here for you. Per Gov. Whitmer's executive order to "Stay Home, Stay Safe," if you do not have an essential need to travel, we ask that you re-visit your travel plans and join us on a future trip. Our cargo presence remains a critical need in this time as our partners fly food, necessities, medical supplies, and more; and we appreciate them now more than ever.

2. **Are you cancelling flights?**

Each individual airline makes the decision to cancel flights or re-schedule service. You can check with your carrier directly by following the link on our main page: www.grr.org/travel-healthy.

***Please note:** Airline customer service lines and travel booking agencies like Expedia, Travelocity, etc. are overwhelmed with high call volumes at this time, so they are asking that if you are not traveling within the next 72 hours to contact them later. You can also send an email and they will reply when they are able. Please contact your airline or travel service directly for re-booking & cancellations.*

3. **What is the airport doing to prevent the spread of COVID-19?**

The Gerald R. Ford International Airport is committed to the safety and well-being of our traveling public, guests, and employees. We have an internal team focused on monitoring and responding to the spread of this novel coronavirus. We are drawing on a number of trusted healthcare sources for our information, including the Centers for Disease Control (CDC), our state health department, and our county health department.

We have several expanded cleaning initiatives in place are following best practices when it comes to reducing the risk of transmission, much as we do during the cough, cold, and flu season. You can read more about our efforts on our main page.

4. **Why aren't you screening passengers for COVID-19?**

There are 13 airports identified by the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) to screen passengers for the coronavirus. DHS, Customs and Border Protection (CBP), and CDC are located at each of these ports of entry to handle the on-site screening of passengers from specific regions and countries at these airports. The Gerald R. Ford International Airport does not yet have direct international airline service, and therefore passengers coming from out of the country are screened at their connecting airport

5. **Is it still safe to fly?**



We are sharing assurances from health and government officials who affirm that “healthy Americans can confidently travel in this country.” Of course, travelers in high-risk categories should consider rescheduling travel plans until after the outbreak has been contained. Additionally, all travelers should be aware of conditions in the region or country of their destination. The CDC has a section with information for all travelers: <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/travelers/index.html>

6. What is the risk of getting COVID-19 on an airplane?

The CDC reports that because of how air circulates and is filtered on airplanes, most viruses and other germs do not spread easily. Although the risk of infection on an airplane is low, try to avoid contact with sick passengers and wash your hands often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds or use hand sanitizer that contains at least 60% alcohol. For more information: [Exposure Risk During Travel](#)