



May 18, 2026

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Prevention and Screening of Individuals with Travel Nexus to Republic of Uganda, Democratic Republic of the Congo, and South Sudan

Consistent with Public Health Service (PHS) Act, 42 U.S.C. §§ 265, 268 titled “Order suspending the right to introduce Certain persons from countries where a quarantinable communicable disease exists”, and the implementing regulation at 42 C.F.R. § 71.40, in response to outbreaks of Ebola in **Republic of Uganda, Democratic Republic of the Congo, and South Sudan**, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) will perform enhanced public health screenings on arriving international travelers identified as having been present in any of the three countries in the last 21 days. Nonimmigrant visa holders may be subject to offloading based on health advisories applicable at boarding.

This Order suspends the right to introduce “covered aliens,” into the United States for a period of thirty days, subject to the outcome of an ongoing comprehensive public health risk assessment. This Order applies to persons who have departed from, or were otherwise present within, Democratic Republic of Congo, Uganda, and South Sudan during the last 21 days (regardless of their country of origin).

For flights departing after 12:00 AM EST on Monday, May 18, 2026, all flights carrying travelers with recent nexus to these three countries may be subject to enhanced medical screening at U.S. ports of entry. CDC is the lead for this effort and following U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP) inspection, CDC or their designated official will provide an escort to their identified screening area for those travelers who were present within any of the three countries within 21 days of the date of the traveler’s arrival into the United States, for enhanced health screening procedures.

This Order does not apply to the following:

- U.S. citizens, U.S. nationals, and lawful permanent residents;¹
- Members of the armed forces of the United States and associated personnel, U.S. government personnel serving overseas, associated personnel, and their spouses and children, subject to required assurances;²
- Persons whom CBP officers determine, with approval from a supervisor, should be excepted from this Order based on the totality of the circumstances, including consideration of significant law enforcement, officer and public safety, humanitarian, and public health interests. The U.S. Department of Homeland Security (DHS) will consult with CDC regarding the standards for such exceptions to help ensure consistency with current CDC guidance and public health recommendations; and
- Noncitizens who would otherwise be subject to this Order, who are permitted to enter the United States as part of a DHS-approved process, where the process approved by DHS has been documented and shared with CDC, and includes appropriate mitigation protocols, per CDC guidance.

This order is time-limited and shall be in effect 30 days from the date of issuance of the CDC Order and is the minimum amount of time necessary for CDC to conduct the assessment. CDC will develop a comprehensive mitigation and containment plan.

¹ 42 CFR 71.40(f).

² 42 CFR 71.40(e)(1) and (3).

Violations impose unnecessary challenges to public health. To address errors and ensure consistent compliance of CBP requirements, absent exigent or unusual circumstances, penalties will be pursued against carriers failing to comply with the Public Health order.

For additional information on Ebola and the CDC response, please visit <https://www.cdc.gov> or [Ebola Disease: Current Situation | Ebola | CDC](#)