

Houston Methodist COVID-19 Health Care Notice

TRAVEL QUESTIONS

Houston Methodist has created a special hotline number for physicians and employees who have urgent or general questions related to COVID-19. The hotline number is 346.356.2222. You may also email your questions to askCOVID@houstonmethodist.org.

WORK-RELATED TRAVEL QUESTIONS

Q: Is Houston Methodist imposing international travel restrictions?

A: Houston Methodist's COVID-19 travel policy prohibits international business travel, including travel to meetings, conferences, professional development/training, sponsored and donor/philanthropy events. Travel restrictions are in place until further notice. We will monitor closely and re-evaluate whether travel restrictions can be lifted when there is clear evidence that the global public health emergency is abated. We will be in regular communication as this dynamic situation evolves. We also discourage international personal travel. If you do decide to travel internationally for personal reasons, please be aware that you will be subject to the [CDC's guidelines for international travelers](#) and will be required to be cleared by Employee Health prior to returning to work. Depending on the circumstances, we may require you to be quarantined for up to 14 days.

Q: Is Houston Methodist placing restrictions on employees traveling domestically?

A: We are no longer allowing work-related domestic travel due to the increasing spread of the COVID-19 virus. All work-related trips must be canceled and do not book any domestic or international work-related trips until further notice.

Q: How will our international programs, such as MITIE, CME and our academic conferences, be impacted by these travel restrictions?

A: All external CME activity, MITIE programs; and academic conferences will either be canceled or limited to one of the following:

- Internal (Houston Methodist badged employees, visitors and medical staff) participation only
- Transitioned to a remote or virtual platform, including Conference Bridge and WebEx

Any specific questions or concerns should be directed to [Chris Ralls](#) for CME, [Angela Mitchell](#) for MITIE, and [Rebecca Hall](#) for academic conferences.

All external tours of HMRI have been canceled until further notice. In addition, all foreign visitors and observers have been placed on hold until further notice. Any exceptions must have executive approval.

PERSONAL TRAVEL QUESTIONS

Q: Can employees travel internationally for personal reasons?

A: Any employee planning to travel outside the United States must complete this [online questionnaire](#) and be cleared by Employee Health before returning to work.

Please do not go to Employee Health for clearance, as they will contact you directly for follow up. Please contact your supervisor if you have additional questions. To read more about



employee-related COVID-19 information, visit myHR.houstonmethodist.org, watch for weekly HR Hub emails, or you can text “COVID” to 45991.

Q: Does our travel policy include cruises?

A: Yes, effective immediately, any employees planning or returning from international travel and/or a cruise must complete this [online questionnaire](#) and be cleared by Employee Health before returning to work.

The Centers for Disease Control made an official statement strongly discouraging all [cruise ship](#) travel. Houston Methodist will abide by the guidelines and employee choosing to go on a cruise effective immediately will be required to self-quarantine for 14 days. Employees who want to be paid during this time will need to use PTO, but it will not be required that they use PTO. They can elect to not be paid for part or all of the 14-day quarantine time or based on their role, may be allowed to work from home as determined by their leader.

For more up-to-date information on the coronavirus, [please click here](#) to visit the CDC website.

Other Frequently Asked Questions:

- [Basic information on COVID-19](#)
- [Caregiver/Employee](#)