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**NEWS  
RELEASE**

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El Paso, Texas

# International Ports of Entry

## New Restrictions for Cross-border Travel at El Paso Ports of Entry

To reduce the risk of spreading COVID-19, El Paso Mayor Dee Margo is supporting a decision by the federal government to limit travel along land ports of entry connecting the United States and Mexico to “essential travel.”

“We are one region dealing with the COVID-19 pandemic; therefore, it is imperative that as a region we restrict unnecessary travel and personal contact,” Margo said. “At this time I believe the Federal limitations applied to our bridges will still allow for commerce and essential business to be conducted.”

Homeland Security plans to restrict travel into the United States through land ports along the U.S-Mexico border to “essential travel.” The restrictions will begin at 11:59 p.m. EST on March 20, 2020 and will remain in place until April 20, 2020.

**“Essential travel” includes (*but is not limited to*):**

- ❖ U.S. citizens and lawful permanent residents returning to the United States
- ❖ Individuals traveling for medical purposes (*e.g., to receive medical treatment in the United States*)
- ❖ Individuals traveling to attend educational institutions
- ❖ Individuals traveling to work in the United States (*e.g., individuals working in the farming or agriculture industry who must travel between the United States and Mexico in furtherance of such work*)
- ❖ Individuals traveling for emergency response and public health purposes (*e.g., government officials or emergency responders entering the United States to support Federal, state, local, tribal, or territorial government efforts to respond to COVID-19 or other emergencies*)
- ❖ Individuals engaged in lawful cross-border trade (*e.g., truck drivers supporting the movement of cargo between the United States and Mexico*)

**–MORE –**





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- ❖ Individuals engaged in official government travel or diplomatic travel
- ❖ Members of the U.S. Armed Forces, and the spouses and children of members of the U.S.
- ❖ Armed Forces, returning to the United States
- ❖ Individuals engaged in military-related travel or operations

The following travel **does not** fall within the definition of “essential travel” for purposes of this Notification:

- ❖ Individuals traveling for tourism purposes (*e.g., sightseeing, recreation, gambling, or attending cultural events*).

The City of El Paso manages southbound lanes at the Paso Del Norte, Stanton and Ysleta/Zaragoza ports of entry. The southbound lanes will continue to operate 24 hours a day, 7 days a week.

South bound lanes at the ports of entry managed by the City of El Paso remain open to travelers crossing into Juárez, Mexico. Travelers are encouraged to limit their travel into Mexico to “essential travel,” and to stay vigilant of travel notifications issued by Mexico.

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