



US BORDERS AND INFECTIOUS DISEASE FACTS

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US-Mexico border crossings: The US-Mexico border is among the busiest in the world. There are more than 300 ports of entry along the border, where customs officials process more than 350 million travelers and 100 million vehicles each year.¹

US-Canada border crossings: The US-Canada border is the world's longest international border at 5,525 miles, with more than 100 points of entry.² More than 28,800 trucks, 140,700 cars and other vehicles, and roughly 300,000 people cross the border daily.³

International travel: In 2017, there were 78.6 million inbound international visitors to the United States.⁴

US Border Control Protocols

- **US Customs and Border Protection:**
 - Travelers who have the following diseases may be barred from entering the United States under the Electronic System for Travel Authorization (ESTA).⁵
 - Chancroid
 - Gonorrhea
 - Granuloma inguinale
 - Leprosy (infectious)
 - Lymphogranuloma venereum
 - Syphilis (infectious)
 - Tuberculosis (active)

- **CDC Quarantine and Border Health Service:** Protects the public's health through detection of and response to communicable diseases related to travel and imported pathogens and improves the health of globally mobile populations transitioning to US communities.⁶
 - Responds to ill travelers who have serious diseases of public health interest.
 - Connects newly arrived immigrants who have certain health conditions with state public health authorities.
 - Ensures safe importation of animals and cargo.
 - Provides public health information to travelers and travel industry.

- **2014 West Africa Ebola epidemic:**
 - "In West Africa, CDC works with airlines, airports, ministries of health, and other partners to provide technical assistance for conducting exit screening and travel

restriction in countries with Ebola. Exit screening helps to identify travelers who may have symptoms of Ebola, or who have been exposed to Ebola, to prevent them from leaving a country until it is confirmed they are not sick. Once travelers land in the United States, more measures are in place to protect the public. CDC works closely with partners at major U.S. ports of entry to recognize signs of infectious disease in travelers. Since October 2014, CDC has been working with CBP [Customs and Border Protection] to identify travelers who could have been exposed while in West Africa and conduct enhanced entry screening at five U.S. airports.”⁷

- More than 339,000 travelers underwent airport screening before leaving Guinea, Liberia, and Sierra Leone. More than 38,000 travelers entering the US were also screened for Ebola.⁸

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