

COVID-19 Impacts at the U.S.-Mexico Border

The U.S. has reached agreements with both Canada and Mexico limiting all non-essential travel (*tourism or recreational in nature*) across borders in an effort to limit the spread of Coronavirus disease (COVID-19). Originally implemented on March 21, 2020, these measures are subject to reevaluation and have been extended twice with a current expiration date of [June 22, 2020](#).

The U.S. - Mexico border is the busiest in the world and fear of the infectious disease has enhanced border surveillance and containment efforts. Dr. David Scrase from the New Mexico Department of Human Services [said](#) “we’re monitoring closely the spread of COVID-19 across the state, and we’re seeing an alarming increase in cases along the southern part of the state. Particularly, along the Texas-New Mexico border.” Officials in the Mexican border city of [Matamoros](#), Tamaulipas, are questioning U.S. citizens and residents coming from Texas. Drivers entering the city of Nogales, Sonora, from Arizona are instructed to get out of their cars and enter a “[sanitizing tunnel](#)” and are sprayed with disinfectant. The city of [Tijuana](#), Baja California, is one of the cities that has been hit the hardest by the pandemic in Mexico. Because of the spike in hospital patients, [San Diego and Tijuana leaders](#) have formed a cross border working group to monitor COVID-19 cases.

In Mexico, the number of confirmed and suspected cases continues to rise. Mexico City and the states of Tabasco, Tlaxcala, Yucatan, and Baja California [currently report](#) the highest incident rates of active cases. On May 25, Mexican

health officials reported 2,485 new cases of COVID19 and 239 deaths, bringing the country's totals to approximately 71,105 cases and 7,633 deaths.

Earlier this month the [Mexican government confirmed](#) the automotive industry as an essential business allowing companies like [Nissan](#), [BMW](#), and [Michelin](#) to begin to gradually reopen. Additionally, the tourism industry in Mexico is also gaining momentum to reopen soon. Playing a prominent role in global tourism, Mexico hosted a record 32.1 million international tourists who contributed approximately [\\$15.5 billion USD](#) to their economy in 2015. In spite of the current pandemic, international travelers have already booked [thousands](#) of hotel reservations in locations such as Los Cabos, Baja California Sur and Cancun, Quintana Roo. Even with the rising death toll, the country plans to reopen its doors to travelers [starting June](#). Current plans will be implemented in stages and by regions, beginning with domestic travelers, followed by travelers from the U.S. and Canada, and then the rest of the world. Nicknamed ["municipalities of hope,"](#) nearly 300 municipalities have already begun the process of reopening.

For more information on the measures implemented by the Mexican government visit the [U.S. COVID-19 Information for U.S. Citizens in Mexico](#).