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## The Latest on Coronavirus | August 25, 2020

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U.S. TRAVEL  
ASSOCIATION®

PUBLIC AFFAIRS UPDATE



### LET'S GO THERE

The [Let's Go There Coalition](#) continues to move toward launching an industrywide recovery campaign on September 8, the day after Labor Day. This campaign aims to reignite Americans' sense of wanderlust and inspire them to look ahead to—and start planning for—their next trip. Resources will be available for the entire industry to use beginning this Thursday, August 27.

There are many ways to engage in this campaign. In addition to the resources available at no cost, there are several ways to support the campaign financially and receive additional customizable benefits. To help the industry learn more, the Coalition will be hosting a [webinar](#) next Tuesday, September 1, at 1:00 p.m. ET.

REGISTER

For more information about the Coalition and the upcoming campaign, view the Coalition's [webinar and slides](#) from earlier this month or reach out to [info@letsgothere.travel](mailto:info@letsgothere.travel).

## ENGAGEMENT ON CARES 2.0

Congress is officially on recess through Labor Day. Though the U.S. House of Representatives came to Washington for a special session to provide additional funding to the U.S. Postal Service, they did not take up additional coronavirus relief legislation—and the U.S. Senate is not expected to return to vote on the U.S. Postal Service legislation.

Our consistent efforts through the summer put us in a strong position during the early rounds of negotiations, and many of our [policy priorities](#) were included in both the HEROES Act and the HEALS Act (the starting bills of both House Democrats and Senate Republicans, respectively). **We must continue to prepare for Congress' return to Washington after Labor Day and ensure that when a final relief package is passed, it includes relief, protection and stimulus for the travel industry.**

Our action alert urging swift negotiation and passage of legislation benefitting the entire travel industry is available, and we encourage you to make your voice heard. Additionally, you can anticipate that we will reach out for action next week as we prepare for Congress to return and we thank you in advance for your engagement during this critical time.

### ACTION ALERT

In addition to [encouraging Washington to restart negotiations](#), we must continue to push all of our priorities, urging Congress to pass a meaningful bill for the entire travel industry. Our [advocacy toolkit](#) includes the latest asks, action alerts and ways to activate, including a [social media guide](#) and [sample op-ed](#). We will continue to add resources and update this page until relief legislation is on the president's desk.

### TAKE ACTION

## THE LATEST

### Federal/Legislative Updates

- U.S. Travel, the Meetings Mean Business Coalition, partner organizations in Washington, D.C., such as the American Hotel & Lodging Association (AHLA) and

travel champions in the [House](#) and [Senate](#) were successful in our efforts to persuade the U.S. General Services Administration to base the 2021 per diem rate—the daily allowance federal workers receive for lodging expenses—on hotels' average daily rate from March 2019 through Feb. 2020.

- This acknowledgment that March 2020 is a significant outlier due to the coronavirus pandemic is an excellent first step, but more action is needed, and [we are encouraging Congress](#) to consider a stand-alone bill to freeze the federal per diem rate for at least the next two years.

## Travel Industry Updates

- The Let's Go There Coalition convened today to discuss steps toward the September 8 launch, including the status of the flagship video, press releases, industry hero toolkit and fundraising.
- The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) has [removed the recommendation](#) that all travelers coming from outside the country self-quarantine for 14 days upon their return, advising travelers to instead follow state and local recommendations. The CDC also advises all travelers, no matter their destination, to follow distancing guidelines, wear a mask, wash hands often and look out for COVID-19 symptoms.
- American Airlines announced that it would be the first airline to [add the electrostatic spraying solution SurfaceWise2](#) to its cleaning regimen. SurfaceWise2 is the only antiviral protectant certified by the Environmental Protection Agency to kill coronaviruses on surfaces even after new germs are deposited.
- As the pandemic continues, airlines are continuing to make difficult decisions regarding both their workforces and their routes:
  - American Airlines [plans to suspend flights](#) to 15 U.S. airports beginning Oct. 7, and announced today that it would [cut 19,000 jobs](#) when federal aid expires on Oct. 1.
  - Southwest Airlines will [cut 35,000 flights in October](#)—roughly 40% of their schedule—due to the ongoing decrease in demand.
  - Australia's Qantas Airways [said last week](#) that it is unlikely to resume international flights before July 2021.
- Delta Air Lines said that it [plans to resume flights](#) on 50 international routes this winter, including daily flights from Seattle to Tokyo, Seoul, Beijing and Shanghai.

## THE DOW REPORT

In "[The Dow Report](#)," U.S. Travel President and CEO Roger Dow interviews a travel industry CEO about steps his or her business is taking to reopen safely amid the pandemic, their approach to leadership and insights on the future of the industry. This

week's episode features Chairman of Disney Parks, Experiences and Products Josh D'Amaro. You can view the full episode below.



***Access all episodes of "The Dow Report" [here](#).***

## RECENT WEBINARS

### Live & Unscripted with Simon Sinek

Yesterday, the first webinar in the ESTO Roadmap Series featured a candid conversation between U.S. Travel President and CEO Roger Dow and bestselling author and speaker Simon Sinek. The conversation centered around leadership in these difficult times, how to face uncertainty and adapt our mindset and why travel industry leaders should be learning from other industries right now, too. You can [view the full conversation here](#) (U.S. Travel member login required).

### Recap: Last Week's ESTO Webinar on Funding Futures

Last week, ESTO hosted a webinar presented by Civitas Advisors, Miles Partnership and Tourism Economics on the findings and recommendations from "Funding Futures," a major study of the recovery and future of tourism and organizations funding coming out of the COVID-19 crisis. The project analyzed 115 North American cities, all 50 U.S. states and 10 Canadian provinces to summarize the current situation, the impact of the COVID-19 crisis and the outlook for recovery. You can [view the full webinar here](#) (U.S. Travel member login required).

## OTHER CORONAVIRUS NEWS

## Domestic Updates

- On Sunday, the U.S. reported the [lowest number of new coronavirus cases](#) (34,567) in more than two months. It also marked the ninth straight day with fewer than 50,000 new cases

## International Updates

- After broadly [reopening their borders](#) at the beginning of July, several European countries are walking back their decision to allow international travelers.
  - The U.K., along with Slovenia and Austria, [removed Croatia](#) from its "safe list" last week.
  - France is also moving to [require a 14-day quarantine](#) for British tourists after the U.K. imposed quarantine measures on visitors from France last week.
  - Norway [has added](#) Britain, Austria, Greece and Ireland to its list of countries that must quarantine upon arrival as well.
- South Korea has [reimposed several social distancing measures](#) after a 10th consecutive day of seeing their coronavirus cases increase by triple digits.

## U.S. TRAVEL RESOURCES

- Our [Emergency Preparedness and Response](#): Coronavirus toolkit contains the latest information and resources, along with information about our advocacy efforts and messaging guidance on how best to respond to this evolving issue.
- Our [COVID-19 CARES Act Relief and Resources](#) page has detailed documents on every relief program the CARES Act provides.
- Our [COVID-19 Travel Industry Research](#) page is a round-up of all the latest travel industry data on the coronavirus. These updates are also shared in our weekly research newsletter, which goes out every Thursday.
- Our [COVID-19 Resources for Destinations](#) page has a host of resources that destinations can leverage, including state-specific data and details on relevant relief programs.
- Our [Industry Guidance for Promoting the Health and Safety of All Travelers](#) page outlines the guidance in detail, along with insights on reopening from across the travel industry.
- Our [Assessing Recovery webinar series](#) looks toward the recovery of the travel and tourism industry and the broader economy. The webinars focus on the guidance and data necessary to safely restore travel in the U.S.
- Our [Power of Travel Advocacy Toolkit](#) has materials for congressional outreach and advocacy to help secure as much relief, protection and stimulus as possible for

the travel industry.

Our [Travel Confidently Toolkit](#) contains resources for the entire travel industry to

- share the steps they are taking to protect travelers' health and safety—as well as promoting the shared responsibility of travelers. **NEW:** [Fall-themed resources](#).

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