



Reformation Tours Coronavirus Update

February 26, 2020

Dear 2020 travelers,

First of all, we are delighted that you are traveling with us this year! We're going to have a wonderful trip and enjoy the best of Europe.

Reformation Tours shares your concerns about the coronavirus and travel safety. Our biggest priority is the health and well-being of our travelers. We are working closely with our affiliates that handle group operations directly, as well as the US State Department, Center for Disease Control and our/your insurer, Roam Right. We are monitoring the news updates and are aware that some museums and events which tend to gather a lot of people together such as sports events are experiencing temporary closure and suspension and will be extended to March and perhaps even into April. Time will tell. Travelers and the travel industry have overcome crisis related to SARS, AVIARIA, HIV and so on, we will overcome this too.

Reformation Tours will contact you if your travel arrangements will be impacted. We are currently planning on operating all of our tours as planned. Thank you for your understanding and patience,

Frank Drinkhouse
President and co-founder
Reformation Tours and Mayflower400 Tours

Please read the links just below before e-mailing and calling. These will answer a lot of questions. These links are also on our home page. Page 2 of this statement contains a medical view of the coronavirus.

[Update on insurance coverage and the coronavirus](#)
[State Department travel advisories](#)
[Airline updates](#)

1. **Don't panic**, as the situation hopefully will be resolved before your travel dates.
2. **Do buy increased insurance** if you haven't already done so. All our invoices include an insurance quote, but you can also contact the office for details. The coronavirus became a "known event" on January 21, 2020, but even if you purchase insurance after that date, there will be a benefit to having the insurance. Fear of travel is not a covered event under most policies. If you have specific insurance coverage questions after reading the above links, please call RoamRight directly at 1-866-891-6614 and reference the "Professional Group" policy.
3. **Wait until** closer to your tour date to make any major decision, as the crisis will hopefully diminish, and travel risks be amended so that you can travel safely. Reformation Tours will be advising travelers about safety and the status of tours closer to departure dates.
4. **Be reassured that your tour will still operate, as long as it's safe for us to do so.** We will let you know if we feel that the tour should be rescheduled or if the itinerary will need to be changed due to areas being quarantined. If any attractions are closed, we will either offer alternatives or provide a refund for missed services.
5. **Watch for updates 30 days prior to departure.** We will make any final itinerary adjustments at this point (if necessary) and we will keep you informed. Please note that no refunds or credits related to the coronavirus will be made on trip departures outside of the 30-day window.
6. **Let us know if you've been to China recently.** Until further notice, as an added precaution for the health and safety of all of our travelers, anyone who has traveled from/visited or transited through China, including Macau, or traveled from/visited Hong Kong, within the 21 days prior to the start of their tour will not be allowed to travel on any tour.

A Medical View of Coronavirus

Doctorgretchen's opinion on Coronavirus 2019 and COVID-19 17FEB2020:

A new virus in the known category of coronaviruses was detected in China in January 2019. It causes a disease known as COVID-19.

Takeaway Points:

- There is NO reason to panic!
- Prevention is always the key - wash hands!
- Influenza is FAR more deadly than this virus - get your Flu Shot!
- Healthcare workers are at much higher risk than the general population
- 81% of cases to date have been mild, with mild or no symptoms
- The fatality rate so far is about 2%, at highest risk for fatal disease are people over 80, smokers and those with chronic disease
- Spread of the virus is more likely in contained spaces such as airplanes, cruise ships, dormitories, military barracks
- Only those exposed or experiencing disease need to wear a mask to prevent spread of the virus. The real risk is in touching surfaces and not washing hands
- Quarantine means being restricted to a defined area away from others
- There is a risk of being quarantined if you are exposed to the virus, probably for 2 weeks, because it takes that long to show symptoms after exposure
- Quarantine is possible if you travel to other countries and there are confirmed cases in an area where you may have been exposed to the virus
- It is likely every country in the world will be exposed to the virus
- Preparation for quarantine includes making sure you have enough of your chronic medications to be at home for 2 weeks, talking with employers about working from home, if possible, and knowing what community resources, including friends and family, are available if you are quarantined and need help

The people at highest risk for disease:

- Age 30-79 (87% of affected people so far), Only 1-3% of patients have been under 19 or over 80. People over 80 do have more severe illness when they do get it
- Men (though this is thought to be related to smoking: 52% of men in China smoke - wow! - and only 2.7% of women smoke. This gender gap will likely even out as more countries report illness)
- Smokers, people with chronic illnesses like COPD, diabetes, heart failure, and people with immune suppression, either from disease or medication

Symptoms - usually appear 2-14 days after exposure:

- Fever (Temp over 100.4 F or 38 C - REGARDLESS of one's "usual" temperature)
- Cough
- Shortness of breath
- Sometimes, stomach upset

Treatment is mostly supportive - fluids, inhalers if needed and sometimes oral steroids. Anti-viral medications are being tested on patients, but it is not likely we will know if they are effective for some time. A vaccine is being worked on.

You're thinking "But they're calling this a PANDEMIC!!"

"Pandemic" is a bureaucratic category, NOT a medical one.

The WHO criteria for "pandemic" include:

1. The disease causes illness
2. The disease can be spread in the community
3. There is worldwide spread of the virus

By classifying this as a pandemic, countries can increase the availability of healthcare workers, medications and medical machines. It is NOT a prediction of severity of this disease or fatality.

[Another good link/source of statistics](#)