

Interim Recommendation for Evaluation of Passengers from Japan

March 23, 2011

The US Government has recommended US citizens leave the area 50 miles around the Fukushima Nuclear Power Plant and has authorized a voluntary departure order from Japan. Many people are traveling from Japan to the United States directly and via numerous travel hubs.

Current US government risk assessments do not indicate a public health threat to the United States from contaminated material or people from Japan. Consequently, active screening of passengers at the point of embarkation from Japan or on arrival to the United States is not warranted.

Passengers returning to the United States routinely pass radiation detection devices when clearing Customs and Border Protection (CBP). CDC is providing additional guidance to CBP officers for referral of passengers who are identified as being potentially contaminated with radioactive material. Traveler compliance with these recommendations is voluntary.

Traveler Education Plan

- The traveling public will be informed via standard CDC communications methods, social media, and the CDC Traveler's Health website.

Suggested CBP Protocol for Traveler Screening

CBP frontline personnel are equipped with personal radiation detectors (PRDs) that can detect radioactive materials, and all airports have more sensitive radiation isotope identification devices (RIIDs) to confirm both the quantity and type of radiation encountered.

Travelers who activate a PRD will be taken to secondary screening for an interview and further screening. CBP will follow standard protocols.

- Travelers $\leq 2\times$ background:** Travelers who test $\leq 2\times$ background and whose travel history is compatible with travel in Japan since March 11 will be given a travel health alert notice (T-HAN) and released.
- Travelers $> 2\times$ but $\leq 20\times$ background:** Travelers who test $> 2\times$ but $\leq 20\times$ background will be asked to change into their own clean clothes and wash exposed skin surfaces, such as hands and face, and then be rescreened. Any traveler who tests $> 2\times$ but $\leq 20\times$ background during initial screening or rescreening will be asked to provide their contact information if they wish to have a follow-up telephone call from CDC staff for personal consultation and interpretation of results. The results of their screening will be transmitted via secure password-protected email from CBP to NOC, to SOC, to CDC. Travelers will be given T-HANS and released.
- Travelers $> 20\times$ background:** Travelers who test $> 20\times$ background will be asked to change into their own clean clothes, wash exposed skin surfaces, such as hands and face, and then be rescreened. If the traveler is $\leq 20\times$ background after rescreening, CBP will follow the protocol for travelers in category B. If the traveler remains $> 20\times$ background, CBP will call the state radiation control officer, who will decide whether onsite or at-home decontamination is more appropriate. If the traveler elects to leave the federal inspection station without waiting for or not heeding the advice of state authorities, CBP will call state health authorities and provide the traveler's contact information for follow-up.

Note: CDC requests to receive daily reports of the test results of any Japan traveler who is above $2\times$ background after CBP secondary screening, even if the traveler does not complete the traveler contact information form.



Interim Recommendation for Evaluation of Passengers from Japan

The T-HAN contains the following information:

- Tells travelers they have tested positive for radioactive materials.
- Encourages travelers to take first steps to decontaminate at the airport (remove clothing and personal belongings, place in plastic bag and store in secure place, wash hands and face, and change into clean clothes).
- Gives travelers instructions for decontamination at home.
- Gives travelers information about how to decontaminate pets.
- Refers travelers to state radiation control programs for advice about contaminated belongings.
- Instructs travelers to contact their local poison control center, state or local health department, or medical provider should they have questions about radiation exposure and health.
- Provides contact information for poison control, state and local health departments, state radiation control programs, and CDC.

