

20-509

The Secretary presents his compliments to their Excellencies and Messieurs and Mesdames the Chiefs of Mission and wishes to bring to their attention additional measures aimed at responding to and lessening the spread of Coronavirus (which has since been renamed “SARS-CoV-2” and causes the disease COVID-19).

On February 29, 2020, the President signed the *Proclamation on Suspension of Entry as Immigrants and Nonimmigrants of Certain Additional Persons who Pose a Risk of Transmitting Coronavirus*. By order of the Proclamation, starting at 5:00 p.m. March 2, 2020, entry into the United States has been suspended for individuals who have been physically present within the Islamic Republic of Iran, during the 14-day period preceding their entry or attempted entry.

This Proclamation exempts certain individuals from the suspension of entry. Notably, the entry suspension is *not* applicable to foreign nationals seeking entry into or who are transiting the United States on A-1, A-2, C-2, C-3 (as a foreign government official or immediate family member of an official), E-1 (as an employee of TECRO or TECO or the employee’s immediate family members),

DIPLOMATIC NOTE

G-1, G-2, G-3, G-4, NATO-1 through NATO-4, or NATO-6 (or seeking to enter as a nonimmigrant in one of those NATO categories) visas, or those whose travel falls within the scope of section 11 of the United Nations Headquarters Agreement.

Proclamation 9984, *Suspension of Entry as Immigrants and Nonimmigrants of Persons who Pose a Risk of Transmitting 2019 Novel Coronavirus and Other Appropriate Measures to Address This Risk*, issued on January 31, 2020, is still in effect. With respect to exempted individuals such as the visa holders listed above, such individuals may be medically screened, and where appropriate quarantined for up to a 14-day period to prevent the spread of the virus.

Given the continued serious public health risk posed by COVID-19, the Department expects all foreign mission members and foreign government officials identified as requiring medical screening, quarantine, or isolation to comply. The Department's Office of Foreign Missions (OFM) is working with Customs and Border Protection as well as the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention to ensure that OFM will be notified of such individuals being admitted pursuant to the exemptions in the President's Proclamations who are in need of medical screening, quarantine, or isolation. OFM will seek to notify the affected individual's mission and or employing organization and seek a waiver of personal inviolability, where appropriate.

Foreign missions may contact OFM concerning this matter by electronic mail at OFM-EmergencyMgt@state.gov.

Department of State,

Washington, March 16, 2020.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be a stylized letter 'A' or a similar symbol.