



# FEDERATION OF AMERICAN CONSUMERS AND TRAVELERS - NEWS RELEASE -

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

## **Possible 2009 H1N1 Flu Screening for International Travelers**

EDWARDSVILLE, IL, November 11, 2009 -Due to the circulation of 2009 H1N1 influenza in the United States and many other countries, airport staff in some foreign countries may check the health of arriving passengers. Many countries, including Japan and China, are screening arriving passengers for symptoms of the flu.

If you are sick with symptoms of flu-like illness, you are now being advised not to travel. These symptoms include fever, cough, sore throat, runny or stuffy nose, body aches, headache, chills, and fatigue. Some people may also have vomiting and diarrhea. People may be infected with the flu and have respiratory symptoms without a fever.

The United States is not screening travelers who arrive from other countries or depart for other countries.

When you travel internationally from the United States, officials in other countries may ask you to:

- Pass by a scanning device that checks your temperature. (The device may look like an airport metal detector, a camera, or a handheld device.) In some countries this may be done before you disembark at your destination.
- Have your temperature taken with an oral or ear thermometer
- Fill out a sheet of questions about your health
- Review information about the symptoms of 2009 H1N1 flu
- Give your address, phone number, and other contact information
- Be quarantined for a period of time if a passenger on your flight is found to have symptoms of 2009 H1N1 flu
- Contact health authorities in the country you are visiting to let them know if you become ill

Additionally, if you have a fever or respiratory symptoms or are suspected to have 2009 H1N1 flu based on screening, you may be asked to:

- Be isolated from other people until you are well
- Have a medical examination
- Take a rapid flu test (which consists of a nasal swab sample)
- Be hospitalized and given medical treatment, if you test positive for 2009 H1N1 flu

The U.S. Department of State usually cannot interfere with the rights of other countries to screen airline passengers entering or exiting their countries, nor can it influence the number of days a traveler is placed in quarantine.

Because these outbreak-related delays, which could include several days of quarantine, may affect planned activities and lead to unexpected costs, the CDC strongly recommends that travelers consider purchasing travel insurance.

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This news release has been issued by the Federation of American Consumers and Travelers (FACT). FACT is a consumer organization, formed under the not-for-profit corporation laws of the District of Columbia in 1984. It currently serves more than 1 million consumers nationwide. Additional information on FACT may be found in the *Encyclopedia of Associations*, and by visiting the association's Web site ([www.usafact.org](http://www.usafact.org)). Informative, unbiased news bulletins are regularly disseminated by FACT to help its members remain current on matters which might seriously impact their lives. In addition to publishing consumer-related reports, the association provides more than 30 benefits for its members, ranging from [medical insurance](#) and [dental discounts](#) to [prescription drug savings](#) and [scholarships](#). FACT's administrative office is located at 318 Hillsboro Avenue, Edwardsville, IL 62025.