

Trump, Trudeau Close U.S.-Canada Border to Prevent COVID-19 Spread

U.S. President Donald Trump and Canadian Prime Minister Justin Trudeau have agreed to close the border between the United States and Canada to slow the spread of COVID-19.

The border will be closed to all non-essential traffic, reports CNBC. Ongoing discussions will determine what vehicles and people will still be allowed to travel, according to CNN. The border is the longest dividing line between two countries.

President Trump announced the news on Twitter:

We will be, by mutual consent, temporarily closing our Northern Border with Canada to non-essential traffic. Trade will not be affected. Details to follow!

– Donald J. Trump (@realDonaldTrump) March 18, 2020

Trudeau announced the closed border at a press conference, saying: “I just spoke to President Trump again this morning, and we have agreed that both Canada and the United States will temporarily restrict all non-essential travel across the Canada-U.S. border.”

Meanwhile, Trump is enacting the Defense Production Act, which will help accelerate the production of equipment necessary to combat and treat COVID-19 in the U.S. This includes masks and protective gear, reports Reuters.

Trump is also working to approve a \$1 trillion stimulus package, which may include a payment of \$1,000 for each American.

The stimulus package would also include \$45.8 billion to put toward sanitizing airports, creating and purchasing protective equipment for federal officials, and strengthening cyber defenses.