



Covid-19: What U.S. Airlines Should be Doing for U.S. for Flight and Cabin Crew Members

COVID-19
UPDATES

The U.S. Department of Transportation, Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) and the Centers for Disease Control (CDC) released [Safety Alert for Operators \(SAFO\) 20003](#)¹ on March 12, 2020 and recommended that all U.S.-based air carriers and crewmembers and non-U.S.-based crewmembers on passenger and cargo flights with a U.S. nexus use these guidelines.

Guidance for U.S Air Carriers

Regardless of residence or travel history, crewmembers who have known exposure to persons with COVID-19 should be assessed and managed on a case-by-case basis. Crewmembers with high-risk exposures may need to be excluded from work.

Housing flight and cabin crews on layovers (in the United States or internationally):

- ➔ Arrange to move crewmembers as a group between the airport and the hotel aboard private ground transport that has been sanitized in advance. Advise your crews to avoid public transport unless it is an emergency.
- ➔ Arrange to house flight crews in hotels that are in close proximity to the airport. Ensure that the hotel rooms are sanitized in advance of the crews' arrival.
- ➔ Provide crew with at least a 60% alcohol-based hand sanitizer.
- ➔ Encourage crews to:
 - ❖ Avoid contact with sick people
 - ❖ Stay in their hotel rooms to the extent possible
 - ❖ Minimize going out into the general population
 - ❖ Use social distancing (maintain a distance of approximately 6 feet, if possible) whenever out in public
 - ❖ Avoid crowds, stores, sporting or mass entertainment events, and other situations likely to attract large numbers of people
 - Eat in their hotel rooms with either room service or delivery service. If in-room dining options are not available, they should eat at a restaurant located in the hotel. If not available at the hotel, they should eat at a restaurant located close to the hotel.
- ➔ Crewmembers may commute to their residence when they return to their home bases.

Supervising self-monitoring of flight and cabin crews:

- ➔ Develop a plan in the event a crewmember becomes symptomatic during an overnight layover.

¹ U.S. DOT, FAA SAFO 2003, 3/12/2020;

https://www.faa.gov/other_visit/aviation_industry/airline_operators/airline_safety/safo/all_safos/media/2020/SAFO20003.pdf

- ❖ Know how to contact public health authorities in locations where crew remain overnight.
 - Contact information for U.S. state and local health departments for COVID-19 is available at https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/downloads/PhoneNumbers_State-and-Local-Health-Departments.pdf.
 - ❖ Provide information to crewmembers regarding medical facilities in the vicinity of cities in which crewmembers remain overnight.
- Develop a plan in the event a crewmember becomes symptomatic while in the crewmember's lodging or personal residence.
- ❖ Ensure crewmembers know how to contact their state or local health department.
 - ❖ Advise crewmembers to notify their state or local health department if they become symptomatic, in addition to reporting to the employer's occupational health program.
- Crewmembers may continue to work flight segments as long as they remain asymptomatic.
- Supervise crewmembers self-monitoring of their health condition through the air carrier's occupational health program.
- ❖ Direct crewmembers to take their temperature twice daily during periods when they are working.
 - Consider providing crewmembers with thermometers.
 - ❖ Remind crewmembers to immediately report a fever, cough, or any difficulty breathing.
 - ❖ Check in with crewmembers periodically to make sure they continue to self-monitor and are not symptomatic.
 - ❖ Ensure crewmembers are asymptomatic before they board a flight.
- Crewmembers who are symptomatic with fever, cough or difficulty breathing should not work subsequent flight segments until they have been cleared by occupational health and public health officials.
- ❖ Notify the state or local health department where the crewmember is located at the time (if the crewmember is located in the United States). If the crewmember is in an international location, notify the public health authority for that location.
 - ❖ Immediately report to CDC any crewmember who has a fever, cough, difficulty breathing, or other flu-like symptoms or is diagnosed with COVID-19 if the crew member worked one or more flight segments while symptomatic. Additionally, consult with CDC if a crewmember is identified to have a high-risk exposure to COVID-19, such as a sick household member with a confirmed or suspected case of COVID-19.
 - Contact CDC by calling the CDC quarantine station with jurisdiction for the airport where the crewmember is located or by calling the CDC Emergency Operations Center at 770-488-7100.
 - CDC can also assist in contacting state or local health departments or foreign public health authorities, if needed.

The U.S. air carrier occupational health program *may choose to exceed these recommendations* based on their own policies.

For more information: See the FAA's SAFO Alert 20003