



# ALPA SECURITY ALERT

2020-02

**SUBJECT: COVID-19 HARDENING OUR TARGET**

## **BACKGROUND**

The United States Department of State recently raised its Global Health Advisory to a “Level 4: DO NOT TRAVEL” from a “Level 3: Reconsider Travel.” Regardless of this escalation, pilots remain part of what has been deemed a critical infrastructure industry as defined by the Department of Homeland Security. As such, we are being tasked with continuing to provide transportation services throughout the pandemic, for as long as needed, and we expect to also be a key component of the recovery.

During these unique and difficult times, it is of the utmost importance that we continue to be vigilant in all areas of our operations as it pertains to security. While we are likely to encounter an increasingly stressful work environment contrasted with reduced passenger loads, a variety of threats still remain. We all must continue to remain focused on the mission at hand and remain on the lookout for any irregularities or threats. Additionally, please be mindful of opportunistic/circumstantial threats in the realm of Cybersecurity, which includes email phishing schemes disguised as:

- Charitable contributions
- General financial relief
- Airline carrier refunds
- Fake cures and vaccines
- Fake testing kits

## **RECOMMENDATIONS**

Continue to practice strict flight deck door opening and closing procedures. Reduced passenger loads onboard our aircraft should not be dismissed as being lower risk. We should be reminded of the events of 9-11 where advisories took command of our aircraft when load factors were not as high as recent times.

Crews should endeavor to maintain strict adherence to both the display and checking of airline identification material, including the verification of crew, airport, company, and government IDs. Remember to always challenge aviation workers who don't display their proper credentials while on or around your aircraft.

Lastly, during these trying times, we also need to keep a watchful eye not just on our own fitness for duty and well-being, but on our co-workers as well. If you observe any behavior or actions by a co-worker that you consider to be troubling or concerning, please know that additional support is available. These resources include both ALPA peer support networks and your immediate

managers at your respective airline. Your report and initiative could be the difference-maker in the life of a co-worker or fellow pilot.

As always, thank you for your continued vigilance and professionalism during this time. If you have any questions or concerns, please contact the Engineering and Air Safety department ([eam@alpa.org](mailto:eam@alpa.org), (800) 424-2470).

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Wolfgang Koch". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Captain Wolfgang Koch  
Aviation Security Chairman  
March 21, 2020