



AIR LINE PILOTS ASSOCIATION, INTERNATIONAL

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THE WORLD'S LARGEST PILOTS UNION | WWW.ALPA.ORG

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On behalf of the 63,000 professional airline pilots flying for 35 airlines in the United States and Canada, I am writing to implore you to join ALPA's efforts in asking the FAA to mandate that all airlines follow the public health guidance issued by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) with respect to cleaning and disinfecting aircraft cockpits and cabins, use of appropriate "approved" materials to clean and disinfect, and notification of employees following a positive COVID-19 test. In light of the global pandemic we face, I know that we are all in agreement and focused on ensuring the health and safety of the frontline employees, passengers, and all who support our industry.

The safety of air transportation is at a critical juncture. To date, more than 250 ALPA members have tested positive for COVID-19, a per populous infection rate of over twice that of the general public. By failing to act and exercise its authority, the FAA is putting added risk in the aviation system, jeopardizing the transport of our passengers and cargo and prolonging the public perception that it is unsafe to fly. Moving forward, as you would agree, Americans must feel safe before air travel will return to normal levels. Stories of pilots and flight attendants testing positive for COVID-19 due to inadequate preventive cleaning certainly does not help achieve that objective. Just as we have partnered to help our industry weather the economic storm we face as a result of this global public health crisis, we are also key to ensuring the safe transportation of passengers and cargo, including FEMA's Project Airbridge, which is so vital to our nation's fight against COVID-19—and our nation's economy and recovery. The foundation of these collaborative efforts depends on the safety of the employees to fulfill them.

In order to ensure the health and safety of our frontline employees—and the economic viability of our industry—the FAA must immediately issue an order directing all airlines to follow the current voluntary CDC guidelines related to flight deck cleaning and disinfection and require employee notification of positive COVID-19 cases in the workplace. It is clear that the FAA has the authority—and moral responsibility—to act; all we are asking is that they fulfill their regulatory authority to compel airlines to follow CDC guidelines in these areas. Once the FAA issues the order, the industry must come together in partnership with the FAA on an aggressive public-awareness campaign that it is indeed safe to fly. At that point, the industry will begin to recover and our pilots—and passengers—will know that all planes are clean and safe.

I look forward to your response and working together on this critically important issue.

Best regards,

Capt. Joseph G. DePete
President
Air Line Pilots Association, International