



# Federal Aviation Administration

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## Memorandum

Date: April 10, 2020

To: All AMEs, IMSs, RFS, AMCD, and AAM-200

From: Penny M. Giovanetti, D.O. Director, Medical Specialties Division,  
AAM-200

Subject: Use of chloroquine (Aralen)/hydroxychloroquine (Plaquenil) for  
COVID-19 Prophylaxis

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Use of chloroquine or hydroxychloroquine to prevent coronavirus infection is disqualifying while on the medication and for 48 hours after the last dose before reporting for flight or other safety related duties.

There is currently no satisfactory scientific evidence that use of these medications decreases the severity of COVID-19. There is no evidence that these medications prevent COVID-19 infection. Aeromedically, we are unwilling to accept the known risks of these medications, such as cardiac rhythm disturbances and hypoglycemia, with no known benefit(s) against COVID-19.

Further, there is no standardized protocol for prophylaxis. Without knowing the dose and duration of use, it is not possible to perform a relative risk assessment compared to weekly use of these medications for malaria prophylaxis.

Of note, active measures are being implemented in many states to preclude the prescription of these medications for other than established diagnoses.

We understand the concern of persons operating in the national and international air spaces. Exercise of social distancing and hand washing represent a far more effective means of prevention. As information changes, we will update our policy based on the best scientific evidence available to us.