



AIR LINE PILOTS ASSOCIATION, INTERNATIONAL

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

April 9, 2020

The Honorable Elaine L. Chao
Secretary
U.S. Department of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Avenue, SE
Washington, DC 20590

Secretary Chao,

On behalf of the 63,000 professional pilots represented by the Air Line Pilots Association, International (ALPA), we are deeply concerned that the situation regarding COVID-19 as it relates to safely maintaining air transportation is at a crisis point. We are working hard to maintain Operation Airbridge that is a priority for you and the administration - and is so critical to our nation's economy and recovery.

In order to ensure that the health of our flight crews, who are working on the frontlines of this pandemic, is protected and the system does not completely breakdown, we implore you to direct the FAA to immediately order airlines to make mandatory current voluntary CDC guidelines related to flight deck cleaning and sanitation, as well as employee notifications of test positive cases in the workplace. Our members are the key to ensuring the safe transportation of passengers and cargo - and have been responsible for keeping the nation's economy going in the midst of this global public health crisis. The least we can do for them is protect their health and safety.

Our members are being exposed to increasing levels of risk due to the airlines failure to comply with Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) guidelines. Airlines are not following the guidance with respect to cleaning and disinfecting our flight decks, failing to use appropriate cleaning and disinfecting agents identified by the EPA and approved by the CDC, as well as failing to notify employees that may have come into contact with a fellow employee who has subsequently tested positive for covid-19.

ALPA has already communicated these concerns to the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) through a formal letter dated March 31, 2020 to Administrator Dickson. It is imperative to make CDC recommendations a requirement immediately, not tomorrow, not next week.

We have also had follow-up emails and discussions with FAA leadership as recently as April 8, 2020 where we passed along very specific details that support our concerns. Unfortunately, the FAA is refusing to act, putting flight crews and the flying public at great risk. This bureaucratic inertia needs to stop - and action must be taken now to protect lives.

It is abundantly clear that the FAA has the authority - and the moral responsibility - to act and mandate that airlines follow CDC guidance and protect public health. And let me make perfectly clear we believe that additional "advisory" guidance from yet another bureaucracy will be viewed by our members as a slap in the face, and an acknowledgment that the FAA does not care about their health and well-being, nor that of the flying public.

It is critical for our members as well as the travelling public and shipping community to ensure the continued safety of our industry. Without action, the system may very grind to a complete halt.

I look forward to your prompt response.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Joseph G. DePete". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial 'J' and a long, sweeping underline.

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