

AV-29017/14/2020-DT
Government of India
Ministry of Civil Aviation

B Block, Rajiv Gandhi Bhawan,
New Delhi, Dated 21.03.2022

ORDER

Subject: Review of COVID-19 guidelines for International flight operations.

In view of the declining Covid-19 cases, high level of vaccinations and prevailing Covid situation, the Ministry of Civil Aviation (MoCA) had allowed full domestic operations w.e.f 18.10.2021 and now has decided to recommence of International Scheduled Air Operations with effect from 27th March 2022.

In order to facilitate International & domestic air operations in view of the safety of passengers and smooth conduct of air operations, the Air Transport Facilitation Committee (ATFC) reviewed the extant guidelines on International & Domestic Operations in its meeting held on 10.03.2022. Based on the recommendations of ATFC, MoCA has now decided to amend the existing provision of the guidelines to that extent as follows:


S. No.	Extant Guideline/ Instruction	Revised Position
1.	Keeping 3 seats vacant on International flights	<p>The restriction of keeping 3 seats vacant on International flights for handling medical emergencies related to Covid-19, stands removed.</p> <p>Passengers to however, continue to upload Vaccination Completion Certificate and RT-PCR negative report before boarding the flights as per the extant protocol / guideline of Ministry of Health & Family Welfare (MoHFW).</p> <p>Required precautions followed by crew as per extant regulations, in case of medical emergency, shall continue. Airlines may carry a few additional PPE protective gears, sanitizers and N-95 masks, to handle any respiratory infections related cases on air, for passengers as well as the crew.</p>
2.	Requirement of PPE kits and other protective gear	<p>The requirement of complete PPE Kit for crew members, stands removed. However, use of face mask and maintenance of hand hygiene / sanitizers continued to be mandatory.</p>



3.	MoHFW, Guidelines for domestic travel, dated 25.08.2021	The MoHFW Guidelines issued for the movement of domestic passengers dated 25.08.2021, stands extended to the International passengers, as well. The wearing of masks at Airports and in Aircraft is reiterated to be continued. Airlines/Airport operators to keep spare masks to make available to such passengers who are found without masks while enforcing wearing of mask at the Airport /in the Aircraft. Airport operators and Airlines should make sanitizers easily accessible for hand hygiene of passengers/crew at Airports and in Aircraft respectively.
4.	Reintroduction of pat-down screening	The pat-down search by the Security personnel at Airports is reintroduced, wherever needed, as per BCAS's directions. During the process, the Security personnel to wear N-95 mask and sanitize hands after each pat-down search, besides following regular Covid-19 protocols.

2. The above decisions would come into effect from the date of issuance of this order. Further, these provisions would be reviewed on regular basis and necessary modification(s) whenever required, would be carried out on the basis of inputs from experts.

3. This has the approval of the Competent Authority.


 (Usha Padhee) 21/3/22
 Joint Secretary to the Govt. of India

To,

- A. Secretary, Civil Aviation, Government of India.
- B. Secretary, Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, Government of India.
- C. Directorate General of Civil Aviation [Kind Attn: Shri Arun Kumar, DG] –with a request to bring the contents of the Order to the notice of all concerned.
- D. Director General, BCAS
- E. Shri S.K. Mishra, Joint Secretary, Agreement Section – for necessary action.
- F. PS to HMCA
- G. PS to HMoSCA
- H. All domestic scheduled airlines for necessary action.