



MAG ALERT!

A Publication of the Mesa Air Group Master Executive Council

COVID-19 News, Tips & Information

This is a master list of the news, tips, resources, programs and information related to COVID-19. Click each subject title below to jump to that section. *Last updated Sept. 10, 2020*

MAG Pilot Cases: 6 *Sept. 10, 2020*

If you are diagnosed with COVID-19 or experience symptoms, contact your chief pilot right away. The Company is following CDC guidance and notifying pilots who may have been in close contact with fellow employees who have tested positive for COVID-19. If you are covered under ALPA's optional critical illness insurance plan through Voya and are undergoing treatment for COVID-19, please file a claim.

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PERSONAL SAFETY

CDC Guidance

The [CDC recommends](#) practicing social distancing, wearing a fabric mask in public, self-monitoring and regular hand washing, along with normal hygiene practices to greatly reduce your risk of contracting or spreading COVID-19.

Facial Coverings

The CDC recommends wearing facial coverings to prevent people who may unknowingly have COVID-19 from transmitting the virus to others and many states now mandate use of facial coverings when in food or retail establishments. Pilots should consider carrying a facial covering for use during layovers. There are no regulations that prohibit the use of facial coverings by crews in the flight deck, though pilots should follow company guidance.

Allergies or COVID-19?

Allergy season is upon us and it's important to be able to recognize the symptoms of allergies, COVID-19 and other health issues. Harvard Medical School published [an article](#) on differentiating COVID-19 from minor health issues. People with COVID-19 have reported a wide range of symptoms, ranging from mild to severe. COVID-19 symptoms may appear **2-14 days after exposure to the virus** and may include:

- Fever or chills
- Cough
- Shortness of breath or difficulty breathing
- Fatigue
- Muscle or body aches
- Headache
- Loss of taste or smell
- Sore throat
- Congestion or runny nose
- Nausea or vomiting
- Diarrhea

The CDC has a "[Self-Checker](#)" tool for COVID-19 symptoms. The number one thing we can do to protect our crews is to continue to self-monitor our health, and always follow your IMSAFE checklist.

FAA on Chloroquine/Hydroxychloroquine

The FAA released a memo stating the following: "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."

Aircraft Cleaning

The following items are completed on all Mesa hub RON aircraft: clean/disinfect all side walls, armrests, tray tables, back seat pockets, seats, seatbelts, window shades, door handles (with specific attention to LAVs), toilet seats, counter space and faucets; remove/replace trash bags; in the flight deck wipe headliners, yokes, CRT screens, seat arm rests, seat tracks, dashboard, cup holders, bag wells and door; clean windows, visors and instrument panels; clean all galley equipment; and vacuum floors, seats and seat tracks. In addition to what's mentioned above, the scope of work assigned during spoke and hub turns is also completed during RON hub aircraft cleanings. Turn cleans are also being increased to ensure flight deck cleanliness. Our codeshare partners continue to assess available options to expand the scope and increase the frequency of cleaning.

Layover Safety

Practicing safe habits are equally important on layovers. Sit apart on hotel transportation, use sanitation wipes on common surfaces, including the exterior of your luggage, avoid public transportation, the hotel gym/pool and public spaces, and eat in your room as much as possible.

Stay Fit While Staying Home

Even in isolation, it's important to stay mentally and physically fit. Maintain a daily routine, keep your mind busy, avoid alcohol, eat healthy meals, exercise and get plenty of rest.

MESA INFO

Commuting Concerns

Both United and American have implemented load factor controls to allow for more social distancing on board. The load factor caps, similar to weight restrictions, may not be visible when listing for a flight and can make commuting more difficult. United has made positive space commuting available to Mesa United Express pilots.

UAX Positive Space Commuting

United Express pilots commuting to or from United work assignments on United aircraft should avoid jumpseating and should instead submit a request for positive space travel 48 hours in advance. Request positive space booking via the [Mesa Pass Bureau webpage](#) and complete the Business Travel Request form with the flight(s) you need to take. United is requesting 48-hour notice to ensure seats can be confirmed.

ASAP Reports

Please report any COVID-19- or cleanliness-related concern via an ASAP report. Having your complaints memorialized within our safety management system gives us evidence when we seek resolutions from management.

COVID-19 MOU Withdrawn

By mutual agreement, the Association and the Company have terminated the COVID-19 MOU early, effective Apr. 23, 2020. This means the Company can no longer reduce the minimum guarantee. Furlough protections remain in place from the stipulations in the CARES Act funding Mesa Air Group accepted. Find more details in [MAG Alert 04-30-20 - COVID-19 MOU Withdrawn](#).

FLYING THE LINE

United Requires Masks *June 3, 2020*

As of June 1, United requires a face covering/mask for all employees working in or traveling through airport terminals, including United Express carrier employees. Masks or face coverings are required for employees flying space-available or positive-space, employees working in any customer-facing locations in the airport and employees who are in the airport terminal either before or after their shifts/on duty.

Varying State Restrictions *May 18, 2020*

States are seeing different levels of COVID-19 activity and responding in different ways. Nationally, the United States is in the acceleration phase of the pandemic, as defined by the [pandemic intervals framework](#). We strongly encourage pilots to maintain social distancing, avoid public spaces, wear masks and follow all CDC and FAA safety guidance

everywhere, even in places that have lifted restrictions. We also encourage you to understand the mandates of any state you travel to. Most importantly, stay safe.

PHX to Require Masks

As of June 1, Phoenix Sky Harbor Airport will require all employees and members of the public entering airport facilities, including the terminals, rental car center, PHX sky train and airport buses, to wear a face covering. Visitors are asked to bring their own face covering but would be able to purchase masks at the airport.

Airport Runways/Taxiways Used for Parked Aircraft

Some airports are parking aircraft in airport movement areas, including runways and taxiways, that have been NOTAM'd as closed. Lighted Xs are being placed at the end of closed runways in accordance with FAA guidance and the airports are identified with "Emergency Parking Plan" next to the airport name. It is important that pilots check NOTAMS prior to flight.

What to Do If You Have a Sick Passenger

If you encounter a sick passenger or crewmember while enroute, do not speculate on the cause of illness and **do not use the words "Coronavirus" or "COVID-19" over the radio**. We are not doctors; making a medical diagnosis is not our duty or responsibility. Crews are advised to relay the conditions of the patient (fever, trouble breathing, etc.) to the inflight medical provider on a discrete line only.

Travel Documentation

When operating a flight, commuting, deadheading or traveling for any other reason, Mesa recommends having your Essential Critical Infrastructure Worker letter and your company ID, and wearing your uniform to help authorities with identification. As a reminder, crewmembers are exempt from the 14-day quarantine for all travelers from outbreak locations to states that are requiring the quarantine.

TSA Sanitizer Exemption

The TSA has temporarily approved non-uniformed crewmembers to travel with commercially-produced disinfectant products in quantities adequate for personal use for the duration of their assigned trip. This policy is effective Apr. 30 through July 31, 2020, or until TSA, at its discretion, returns to the existing policy.

FFDO Waiver

TSA was forced to stop all Federal Flight Deck Officer (FFDO) training events due to the CDC's call for isolation and social distancing. In response to ALPA's request, TSA Administrator David Pekoske announced this week that a new waiver will allow FFDOs to retain their deputation during the duration of the closure of FFDO training facilities and until they are able to complete their required recurrent training upon the resumption of normal training operations.

Passport Services

The U.S. Department of State Passport Services has given notice that all agencies are closed to the public until further notice. However, Passport Services will still serve airline flight crew members who urgently need a passport.

SUPPORT PROGRAMS

Pilot Assistance

If you are experiencing stress related to this outbreak or any other factor, ALPA is here for you. Our Pilot Peer Support (PPS) Committee is made up of trained volunteers available 24/7 to listen and offer confidential, non-judgmental assistance. Please do not hesitate to reach out. Contact the ALPA National Pilot Peer Support team at 309-PPS-ALPA.

Support Programs

There are many relief programs available for those affected by COVID-19 and support programs to help you protect and grow your career:

- [ALPA Pilots for Pilots \(P4P\)](#): emergency relief grants and loans
- [ALPA LTD](#): coverage payments waived through June 2020
- [Cage Marshall](#): free career development webinars (log in with password 4ALPA)
- [Union Plus](#): support services including debt management, credit counseling, mortgage assistance, disaster relief assistance, medical bill negotiating service and more
- [Union Plus](#): no-cost bachelor's degree completion program
- [PenFed Foundation](#): emergency relief grants for veterans

NEWS & RESOURCES

COVID-19 Resources

Up-to-date news, safety recommendations, travel warnings, resources for flight crews and more can be found on ALPA's [COVID-19 homepage](#) or the ALPA app. Here are some additional resources you may find helpful:

- [CDC COVID-19 Guidance](#)
- [CDC COVID-19 Symptoms Self Checker](#)
- [DIY mask tutorial](#)
- [Harvard Medical School: Is it allergies, COVID-19 or other health concerns?](#)
- [SAFO 20009: Interim OSHA Guidance](#)
- [SAFO 20003: Self-Monitoring](#)
- [Special Federal Aviation Regulation - Medicals Extension & More](#)
- [IFALPA COVID-19 Resource Page](#)
- [IFALPA Safety Bulletin](#)
- [ALPA's Checklist for Change: Planning for the Unknown](#)
- [ALPA's Preparing Your Finances for a Recession](#)
- [ALPA's Pandemic Action Checklist for Pilots](#)
- [ALPA Pilot Peer Support](#)
- [ALPA list of job opportunities for members](#)
- [ICAO Public Health Corridor](#)

DART Program

ALPA's [DART system](#) gives members a singular place to submit a concern or get timely answers from subject matter experts across our union on COVID-19. Access DART via the ALPA app or dart.alpa.org. If you encounter any issues trying to submit a DART, please contact HelpDesk@alpa.org.

Pay Protection and the CARES Act

The question of whether the CARES Act will require pay protection for forced displacement has come to light recently. United Airlines issued a comprehensive displacement without offering pay protection for downgrade in equipment or status. When [asked about United's compensation reduction](#), Treasury Secretary Steven Mnuchin [testified](#) that "we believe they are in compliance with the agreement." There is no formal appeal procedure under the CARES Act, but ALPA and several other unions have contacted the Department of Treasury to urge a more expansive interpretation of the Act's labor protections. In discussions with the Treasury, they have been clear that they have, to date, not found any recipient of Payroll Support Program grant assistance in violation of the CARES Act. Additionally, they have thus far declined to provide any assurance that it will require pay protection beyond the requirements of the applicable collective bargaining agreement.

'Heroes Act' Update *May 25, 2020*

A second relief bill introduced by the House includes legislation to enact key public health initiatives to protect airline crews and passengers. The Heroes Act mandates that airlines follow CDC guidance and FAA recommendations for COVID-19 health monitoring, employee exposure notification and workplace cleaning/disinfection. It is critical to remember that all these actions are aimed at helping regain public confidence in our industry. If we protect the health and safety of the traveling public, both business and leisure travelers will return to flying. This return is absolutely essential to the economic recovery of our industry—it will help save our jobs now and protect our careers in the future. As of May 21, the Heroes Act has not been passed by the Senate.

Call to Action: Mandate CDC Health and Safety Guidelines *May 18, 2020*

As essential employees performing critical work during this unprecedented time, we demand that the U.S. Congress take action to ensure the safety of our workplace and require airlines follow CDC guidelines for flight deck cleaning and sanitation, as well as employee notification of test-positive COVID-19 cases in the workplace. Please take a moment to participate in this [call to action](#).

Credible News

We continue to monitor the CDC's COVID-19 forecasts and watch the numbers carefully with hopes that the traveling public will soon take to the skies again and our airline can slowly return to our pre-virus schedules. There will be a lot of media coverage. Please do your research with credible sources before you believe social media and some news sources. We are using ALPA National sources as well as the CDC.

Mesa Air Group CARES Act Funding

On Apr. 20, the Company announced they expect to receive \$92.5 million in payroll assistance via the CARES Act to help mitigate the financial losses from the Coronavirus. The grant money is targeted to cover 76% of payroll. One of the stipulations in this Act is that the Company cannot furlough until Sept. 30, 2020. The Company has received \$30.8 million with the remaining amount scheduled to be paid to Mesa in four equal payments from June to September 2020.

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