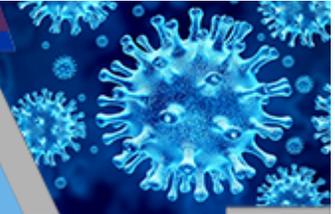


EXPRESSJET ALPA



COVID-19 JOINT TASK FORCE



XJT ALPA COVID-19 Joint Task Force Update 6

25 April 2020

Mandatory Face Covering Use in Houston and Illinois

Houston is not the first city to require face coverings. As we write this update the governor of Illinois has issued a mandatory face covering requirement for anyone over the age of two. The XJT ALPA COVID-19 Joint Task Force first discussed this scenario when a crewmember traveling to LRD reached out to us at XJTVirusHelp@alpa.org. Houston isn't the first to declare such a requirement and won't be the last.

From the Houston ABC affiliate website:

Harris County, Texas (where Houston lies) accounts for nearly a quarter of the more than 21,000 COVID-19 cases in Texas. Last week, mandates to wear face coverings were announced congruent to those already set by San Antonio and Dallas, among other major cities in the state.

Under the order, residents ten years and older will be required to wear a face covering starting Monday, April 27. The order will last for 30 days. Face coverings can be a mask, scarf, bandanna or handkerchief.

The masks or coverings must cover the nose and mouth, but the coverings are not limited to medical or N-95 masks. The only exceptions to the rule will be when exercising, eating, drinking, if you're alone in a separate place, or at your home.

This means all crewmembers traveling to, within and from the Houston airport should follow

these guidelines. The Task Force is looking to develop a process to notify crewmembers of other locations that require mandatory face coverings. If you are aware of any such locations, please let us know at XJTVirusHelp@alpa.org.

The link below will take you to the CDC article:

[Use of Cloth Face Coverings to Help Slow the Spread of COVID-19](#)

The link below will take you to a YouTube video on how to properly wear, store and reuse your mask.

[Mask Wearing 101](#)

On April 7, 2020, a MyMessage from our Director of Flight Ops Darrin Greubel, supported by the Association, shared with the pilots' information on the use of face coverings.

The Case for Face Coverings in Houston

According to published reports:

- On 3/30/2020 - 526 Positive / four fatalities in Harris County
- On 4/4/2020 - 1,106 Positive / eight fatalities in Harris County
- On 4/24/2020 - 5,211 Positive / 80 fatalities in Harris County

The number of cases in Texas is beginning to level off and that is positive news. We have been able to develop several initiatives to keep our work areas disinfected. The next step in stopping the spread is to keep the virus from leaping from one person to another through respiratory droplets produced by coughing, sneezing or talking. Unfortunately, the flight deck of an EMB145 does not allow for social distancing.

We have all heard the word “asymptomatic.” Asymptomatic means that a person is carrying the disease, but not showing symptoms. The science is still out on whether COVID-19 will spread IF a person is not displaying symptoms. Until asymptomatic spread is confirmed or

denied, testing becomes more widely available, or a vaccine is developed, the Task Force believes using a face covering-situation dependent and at the discretion of the Captain-is another layer of protection.

Protecting our Pilots

ExpressJet's EMB145 operation was born in Houston, TX. George Bush Intercontinental/Houston Airport hosts our largest flight operation and is home to our training center. Our first Task Force meeting with training center leadership was on 3/30/2020. This strong presence in Harris County requires diligence on our part to mitigate the spread of the virus.

Wednesday, the Flight Deck Cleaning Task Card was pushed to your EFB. Early next week, pilots will begin to see ship sets of Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) that will include 100 Webcol wipes and face masks.

Use the wipes or your own cleaning supplies as directed by the task card. Use the mask as needed, but please remember that the supply of masks is extremely limited and we need to allocate those for crews that don't have their own face covering. If you have your own, use it. If you need a mask from the PPE, use it for as long as you can and protect it as indicated in the video linked above. One mask should work for a whole day and possibly longer if properly cared for. Some airlines are beginning to issue one mask to their pilots for a four-day trip. We believe that our pilots will do the right thing and utilize the best judgement. We all need to work together to manage the supply for now.

The company ordered 50 gallons of hand sanitizer for the bases as well. Hand sanitizer and PPE refills will be available from the chief pilots' offices in Chicago and Houston. Electrostatic disinfecting of the cabin begins next week. Please review your MyMessage dated 4/23/2020 for details.

Thus begins our "Clean Before and After" campaign as outlined in the XJT ALPA COVID-19 Joint Task Force Strategic Plan. Until we can find a good outside source for flight deck disinfecting, we have to make the disinfection of our workplace a priority. The airplane, simulators, FTDs, briefing rooms and classrooms should all be following the SAFO and CDC guidance.

ASAP IT!

Every pilot and flight instructor are our eyes and ears on the front line. We ask that if you see

a hazard, report it via the ASAP portal. DO NOT BE AFRAID OF ASAP! ASAP is a confidential program and there should be no fear of discipline. Now more than ever we must stay vigilant and take the time to write an ASAP report even if you see that our processes are working.

XJTVirusHelp@alpa.org

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Air Line Pilots Association, International

www.alpa.org

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