



ADVISORY CIRCULAR

11 June 2020

1.0 **SUBJECT:**

GUIDELINES FOR RESUMPTION OF OPERATIONS FOR AIRPORT AND AIRLINE OPERATORS POST COVID19.

2.0 **EFFECTIVE DATE:**

This Advisory Circular is effective 15 June 2020 and shall remain in force until otherwise notified by Bahrain Civil Aviation Affairs (BCAA).

3.0 **APPLICABILITY:**

Airport operator, Airline operators and Service providers at Bahrain International Airport (BIA).

4.0 **PURPOSE:**

4.1 This Circular contains BCAA guidelines for the resumption of operations at Bahrain International Airport post COVID 19 pandemic.

4.2 These guidelines were developed in consultation with the National Public Health Authorities, Airline operators and Airport operator.

5.0 **GENERAL**

5.1 These guidelines reflect the current status of knowledge of the COVID-19 pandemic and of effective preventive measures being recommended by the Ministry of Health (MOH). These guidelines will be regularly updated in line with changes in knowledge of the risk of transmission as well as with development of other preventive measures as advised by the MOH.

5.2 The Airport operator shall take all necessary measures to enforce these guidelines on all Airline operators, service providers and BIA stakeholders.



5.3 Airport operator, Airline operators and BIA stakeholders shall coordinate their actions in the context of these guidelines in consultations with the MOH.

5.4 Airport operator and Airline operators shall use health safety promotion materials to educate and guide passengers and staff at the airport premises. Promotion materials should be presented in the following sequence: at all times, before arriving at the departure airport, at the airport, on board the aircraft and at the arrival airport.

6.0 REQUIREMENTS:

6.1 The Airport operator shall implement the following preventative measures prior to the full resumption of Airport operations:

- I. Access to the terminal building shall be restricted to airport / airlines staff and travelers (with exceptions being made for those accompanying passengers with disabilities or unaccompanied minors).
- II. Temperature screening shall be implemented at entry points to the terminal building and prior to Boarding gates.
- III. Strict physical distancing (2 m) to be observed through all passenger processes, including queue management.
- IV. The mandatory use of face coverings along with suitable PPE for airlines and airport staff shall be applied.
- V. The use of self-service by passengers should be encouraged to reduce contact points and queues. This includes remote check-in (electronic / home printed boarding passes), and automated bag drops.
- VI. Implement the use of passenger health declaration forms, including self – declarations in line with the recommendations of MOH. Electronic tools should be encouraged to avoid paper.
- VII. Perform routine cleaning and disinfection of frequently touched/exposed surfaces and equipment in accordance with the Ministry of Health (MOH) protocol.
- VIII. Ensure the ground handler performs routine cleaning and disinfection of the



passenger coaches prior to each trip. To maintain physical distancing, the passenger coaches shall utilize no more than 50% of its passenger's load capacity in each trip.

- IX. Develop in consultation with the MOH procedure for Handling suspect cases who might have failed temperature screening and requiring further medical attention.
- X. Provide hand sanitizers and disinfection products at the designated points in the airport/terminal prior to commencement of operations.
- XI. Set up in consultation with the MOH area for Airport staff /passengers to dispose Personal Protective Equipment.
- XII. Develop in consultation with MOH a procedure for waste management.
- XIII. Develop in consultation with MOH the requirement for arriving passengers testing and quarantine arrangements.
- XIV. Ensure that passengers who do not adhere to the preventive measures in place are refused access to the airport terminal building and removed from airport premises by the airport police.

Airport Operator shall implement the above guidelines and shall resume full operations at BIA after the satisfactory implementation of the above measures.

6.2 Airline operators should implement the following preventative measures prior to resumption of operations at Bahrain International Airport:

- I. Perform cleaning and disinfection before each flight in accordance with the EASA / IATA Aircraft cleaning and disinfection guidance.
- II. Provide guidance material to passengers regarding application of the preventive measures on board, including (Hand hygiene, appropriate use of face masks, respiratory etiquette, minimized on-board service).
- III. Ensure passenger/crew are wearing their face mask properly onboard the flight and have additional masks available for replacement when necessary.
- IV. Disembarking passengers, including transfer passengers shall wear their face mask at all times inside the terminal and when they join their onward flights.



- V. Put measures into place to avoid passengers queuing in the aisle or the galleys for the use of the lavatories.
- VI. Ensure, to the extent possible, physical distancing among passengers is maintained during boarding and onboard the aircraft.
- VII. Reduce on-board service to the minimum necessary and limit the contact between crew members and passengers.
- VIII. Carry sufficient number of face masks on board to provide to passengers, especially for long-haul flights. A safe mask disposal process should be put in place.
- IX. Develop procedure for the management and treatment of unruly passengers in the context of the pressures imposed by the pandemic.
- X. Ensure that Passengers who do not adhere to the preventive measures in place are refused access to the aircraft cabin, or disembarked, if the events take place before aircraft doors are shut.
- XI. Develop procedure and ensure flight crew are trained in the management of passengers on board with COVID-19 compatible symptoms.

Airport operator, Airline operators and service providers are advised to refer to the relevant guidance materials provided by ICAO and EASA at the following links:

<https://www.icao.int/covid/cart/Pages/default.aspx>

https://www.easa.europa.eu/sites/default/files/dfu/EASA-ECDC_COVID-19_Operational%20guidelines%20for%20management%20of%20passengers_final.pdf

Undersecretary for Civil Aviation Affairs

Recipients of new Aeronautical Circulars are asked to ensure that these are copied to their 'in house' or contracted organisations, to relevant outside contractors, and to all members of their staff who could have an interest in the information or who need to take appropriate action in response to this Communication.