

Association of Flight Attendants – CWA, AFL-CIO
Executive Board Meeting
October 26, 2020

SUBJECT: Strengthen and Maintain Onboard COVID-19 Policies and Procedures

SOURCE AND DATE SUBMITTED: International President, October 23, 2020

BACKGROUND INFORMATION:

Flight Attendants are essential workers. The airline industry remains an integral part of our nation's efforts to fight the COVID-19 virus. We move medical personnel and resources to all of our communities. As aviation's first responders, Flight Attendants continue to come to work each day to fulfill the important task of keeping our nations' infrastructure moving, fighting the virus and flattening it's curve. Government and airlines must recognize the need to establish, implement, and maintain policies that work to safeguard the health of both Flight Attendants and those in our care during this pandemic.

AFA COVID-19 Operational Recommendations (October 2020)

- Continue to require that masks are worn onboard until a vaccine is widely available, and implement these onboard service policies to facilitate consistent mask-wearing:
 - Minimize onboard food and beverage service to essential items;
 - Make regular announcements: (1) for passengers to not remove their mask until the Flight Attendant has passed their row; and (2) for passengers to only "dip" their mask down momentarily to take a bite or a sip ("dip and sip");
 - Add onboard mask protocols to Flight Attendant safety demos, including the requirement for everyone to wear a mask throughout the flight, to wear it over the mouth and nose, and to only dip it down momentarily when eating/drinking;
 - Only serve cold food and drinks on flights less than 1,800 miles/three hours;
 - Serve individual cans/bottles for drinks, do not pour beverages from master bottles;
 - Stop onboard alcohol sales: alcohol consumption is non-essential and can reduce mask compliance; and
 - Only offer limited food options.

- Maintain social-distancing space for Flight Attendants, whenever possible on the plane and transportation to/from hotel. Provide regular briefing sheet reminders about best practices in crowded spaces to reduce risk - persistent proper mask use, avoid common touch locations, use of 60% alcohol or more hand sanitizer, and wash hands for 20 seconds or more as soon as practicable after once at destination (airport or hotel).
- Maintain employee sick leave policies with economic coverage of testing and non-punitive sick calls if experiencing COVID-like symptoms.
- Conduct timely notification to Flight Attendants on exposure to confirmed coronavirus cases, with a 72 hour lookback to a passenger or crewmember reporting either symptoms or a positive test result, including notification to crewmembers if one or more passengers test positive post-flight. Continue company-sponsored crew testing and quarantine protocols;
- Continue to implement and maintain sanitation and disinfection protocols; and
- Minimize or eliminate touch points, such as hanging coats for passengers and other non-essential services.

PROPOSED RESOLUTION:

WHEREAS, protecting the health and safety of Flight Attendants and passengers is our number one priority; and,

WHEREAS, the AFA-CWA Executive Board recognizes the important role aviation plays in fighting the virus and our nation's economy as we move critical personnel and supplies to all communities; and,

WHEREAS, even as we continue air service, we must take every precaution to minimize risk and spread of the virus through a layered approach to safety.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, AFA-CWA calls on all airlines to strengthen and maintain onboard mask requirements and mask announcements, provide only essential food and beverage service, minimize touch points between crew and passengers, maintain social distancing options as practicable, and maintain or implement AFA COVID-19 recommended operational policies and procedures for a layered approach to safety that mitigates health risks.

Adopted Unanimously, October 26, 2020