



# Federal Aviation Administration

## Considerations for State, Local, and Territorial COVID-19 Restrictions That Impact Air Transportation

The Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) is aware that States and localities have implemented or may consider implementing quarantine or travel restrictions on persons entering from certain locations within the United States and U.S. territories with sustained community transmission.

States, localities, and territories may wish to account for the following considerations when implementing any quarantine, movement, and/or screening requirements that impact air transportation. These suggestions draw on lessons learned from State, local, and territorial actions to date, as well as Federal guidance recommending unrestricted movement and access for critical infrastructure workers.

- Exempt critical air transportation workers – including airline and airport employees, as well as federal aviation and security personnel – from restrictions on movement and/or requirements for quarantine, isolation, or shelter-in-place declarations. See the following guidance from the Department of Homeland Security and Department of Transportation:
  - <https://www.cisa.gov/publication/guidance-essential-critical-infrastructure-workforce>
  - <https://www.transportation.gov/coronavirus>
  - [https://www.faa.gov/other\\_visit/aviation\\_industry/airline\\_operators/airline\\_safety/safo/all\\_safos/media/2020/SAFO20003.pdf](https://www.faa.gov/other_visit/aviation_industry/airline_operators/airline_safety/safo/all_safos/media/2020/SAFO20003.pdf)
- Identify the intent of any actions and the groups to be targeted by quarantine and travel/movement restriction procedures. Consider all travel options, including direct flights, connecting flights, and other modes of transportation, available to individual members of the targeted groups that may allow them to evade – whether intentionally or unintentionally – screening, travel restrictions, and/or quarantine measures.
- Identify the resources necessary for implementation, and the roles and responsibilities of each organization participating, including air transportation stakeholders.
- Coordinate with all air transportation stakeholders that operate in your jurisdiction (airlines, airports, federal agency partners, and other aviation businesses such as Fixed Base Operators and charter operators) to ensure clear and consistent implementation. Coordinate no less than 48 hours before implementation of the quarantine or restriction procedures. Objectives when coordinating and issuing guidance to stakeholders can include:
  - Ensuring there is a clear understanding of expectations and roles and responsibilities between the government implementing the measures and those air transportation entities that will be implementing any part of those requirements.

- Encouraging the provision of pre-boarding/departure notifications to reduce stress to passengers and disruptions onboard the aircraft that may impair the safety or efficiency of the national airspace system.
- Enabling air carriers to brief aircraft crews on what is expected of them prior to departure, during the flight, and upon arrival.
- Consider the logistics of how your government will collect information and perform screening, in consultation with air transportation operators and with a goal of minimizing burden and maximizing flexibility for operations:
  - Determine when and who distributes and collects passenger information forms.
  - The exact process for distribution and collection of forms in each airport may be different due to terminal size and configuration, but could include distribution on the aircraft, in the jetway, or at the departure gate.
  - Ensure departure and arrival guidance and any passenger information forms are consistent and repeatable. Carriers operate in multiple states. Different forms in each location will pose an issue for both airports and airlines.
  - Clearly delineate responsibility for managing and performing screening.
  - Minimize undesirable queueing or the formation of large groups of passengers.
  - Identify compliance and enforcement processes and jurisdiction.
- Proposed measures cannot close a Federally-obligated airport absent prior FAA authorization, and must consider all essential aeronautical services. These may include:
  - Scheduled or unscheduled passenger and cargo operations, to include charter and corporate aviation activities as well as private charitable efforts through volunteer pilot organizations;
  - Law enforcement needs, including local, state, and Federal public safety missions;
  - Department of Defense operations;
  - Medical services flights;
  - Aircraft maintenance/repair;
  - Flight support (i.e., fuel, other servicing, parking);
  - Operational flight functions performed by flight crews, mechanics, and ramp personnel; and
  - Air traffic control functions and personnel.

*This guidance is not legally binding in its own right and will not be relied upon by the FAA as a separate basis for affirmative enforcement action or other administrative penalty. Conformity with this guidance, as distinct from existing statutes, regulations, and grant assurances, is voluntary only, and nonconformity will not affect existing rights and obligations.*