



**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR GENERAL OF CIVIL AVIATION
Opposite Safdarjung Airport, New Delhi-110003**

ORDER

File No. 4/1/2020-IR
Dated 31.05.2020

Sub: Directions for protecting health of persons involved in air travel.

Whereas DGCA issued directions to Air India on 06.05.2020 for strict compliance of SOP for operations of Evacuation Flights under Vande Bharat Mission and subsequently issued a Circulars dated 22.05.2020 disseminating guidelines issued by Ministry of Civil Aviation for various stakeholders on recommencement of schedule domestic operations. The said SOP and Circular inter alia included the measures to be taken by various stakeholders for protecting the health of persons involved in air travel.

Whereas Hon'ble Supreme Court of India, in its order dated 25.05.2020, passed in Special Leave Petition (Civil) Diary No. 11629 of 2020, filed by Union of India Versus Deven Yogesh Kanani, observed that the "***Director General of Civil Aviation is free to alter any norms he may consider necessary during the pendency of the matter in the interest of public health and safety of the passengers rather than of commercial considerations.***"

Whereas in pursuance of observations of Hon'ble Supreme Court of India and in the interest of safety of passengers, an Expert Committee was constituted by Ministry of Civil Aviation on 26.05.2020 to review and further strengthen the public health related protocols of Air Travel. The expert committee has submitted its recommendations to the Ministry of Civil Aviation.

Whereas the recommendations given by the said expert committee have been deliberated in detail by the Director General of Civil Aviation and after a holistic consideration of all the issues involved, it has been decided to issue the following directions to safeguard the health of persons involved in air travel:

- (i) All passengers shall be provided with safety kits by airlines, which shall include three layered surgical mask, face shield and adequate sanitizer (sachets/ bottle).
- (ii) The airlines shall allot the seats in such a manner that the middle seat/ seat between two passengers is kept vacant if the passenger load and seat capacity permits the same. However, the members of same family may be allowed to sit together.
- (iii) If middle seat/seat between two passengers is occupied due to passenger load, then additional protective equipment like 'wrap around gown' (Ministry of Textiles approved standards) shall be provided to the individual occupying the intervening seat in addition to the three layer face mask and face shield.
- (iv) No meals or drinking water shall be served on board except in extreme circumstances arising due to health reasons.
- (v) The embarkation/ disembarkation shall be sequential and passengers shall be advised by airlines to follow the instructions and not to rush to the entry/ exit gate. The airline shall ensure orderly entry/exit of the passengers.
- (vi) Airlines shall set the air-conditioning system in such a way that the air gets replaced at the shortest possible intervals.

- (vii) Aircraft shall be sanitized after the end of each sector when there is no passenger on board. However, on transit flights, when passengers are on board, the seats (including its contacts) which have been vacated by the passenger shall be sanitized. At the end of the day, each aircraft shall be deep cleaned as per the procedure prescribed by the DGCA vide its Circular 4/1/2020-IR dated 17.3.2020. Special attention shall be paid to sanitize the seat belt and all other contact points.
- (viii) Airplane lavatories shall be cleaned / sanitized frequently during the flight.
- (ix) Airlines shall carry out health check-up of all crew regularly. All flying crew/ Cabin Crew shall be given full protective suits.
- (x) In case of COVID-19 related medical emergency on board, aircraft disinfection shall be carried with special attention to all the affected and adjoining seats.
- (xi) Airlines/ Airports shall explore the possibility of having a disinfection tunnel to ensure safety of passengers after fully evaluating its health implications on human beings.
- (xii) The aforesaid directions are in addition to those already prescribed MoCA/DGCA.

The above directions are for strict compliance by all stakeholders and shall come into force with effect from 3rd Jun 2020.


(Sunil Kumar)
Deputy Director General

To

1. All Foreign and Domestic Scheduled Airlines/Non-Scheduled and Private Operators;
2. The Chairman, Airport Authority of India;
3. Airport Operators;
4. Ground Handling Agents.