

CAAS Circular 2020/17

15 March 2020

ADDITIONAL PRECAUTIONARY MEASURES FOR FLIGHT AND CABIN CREW IN RESPONSE TO ESCALATING GLOBAL COVID-19 SITUATION

The Singapore Ministry of Health (MOH) will implement additional precautionary measures to further reduce the risk of importation of COVID-19 to Singapore. Please refer to MOH's press release at Annex A.

Additional Precautionary Measures for Flight and Cabin Crew with Travel History to ASEAN Countries, Japan, Switzerland or the United Kingdom

2 With effect from **16 March 2020, 2359 hours**, all flight and cabin crew entering Singapore with travel history to ASEAN countries¹, Japan, Switzerland or the United Kingdom within the last 14 days will be issued with a 14-day Stay-Home Notice (SHN), which they will have to serve in their crew hotel in full or until their next departure out of Singapore. They may also be swabbed for testing for COVID-19, even if asymptomatic. The SHN will not apply to flight and cabin crew with travel history to the above-mentioned countries, who are transiting in Singapore without leaving the airport transit area.

3 Airlines are reminded that all flight and cabin crew, who are not Singapore Citizens, Permanent Residents or long-term pass holders, with travel history to mainland China, Iran, Italy, France, Germany, Republic of Korea, and Spain within the last 14 days, will not be allowed to enter Singapore, or transit through Singapore.

4 For flights that operate to Singapore from Switzerland or the United Kingdom, with flight and cabin crew with recent travel history to countries as mentioned in paragraph 3 above, airlines may layover their flight and cabin crew in hotels permitted by CAAS. To do so, these airlines shall ensure that such flight and cabin crew adhere to the following conditions:

- a. Remain within the hotel and practise social distancing i.e. keep a distance from other persons and dine in-room as much as possible;
- b. Take the necessary precautions, including the use of masks when not in their rooms and while in flight;

¹ List of ASEAN countries besides Singapore: Brunei Darussalam, Cambodia, Indonesia, Lao PDR, Malaysia, Myanmar, Philippines, Thailand, Vietnam.

- c. Closely monitor their health, including taking their temperatures regularly; and
- d. Keep a record of their movements and individuals they came into close contact with, in case there is a need for contact tracing.

5 Any flight and cabin crew who fail to observe any of the conditions in paragraph 4 above, will be subject to Not-To-Land (NTL) policies and procedures. Action may also be taken against the airline concerned.

Precautionary Testing for Symptomatic Flight and Cabin Crew

6 Airlines are reminded that, as communicated in CAAS Circular 2020/14, flight and cabin crew entering Singapore and exhibiting fever and/or other symptoms of respiratory illness are required to undergo a COVID19 swab test at the checkpoint, regardless of travel history. All such flight and cabin crew will be issued a 14-day SHN, which they will have to serve in full, even if the result of the swab test is negative. Those who meet the clinical suspect case definition will be conveyed to the hospital for follow-up. Airlines are therefore advised to check the health of their flight and cabin crew before flight.

7 Flight and cabin crew, who are not Singapore Citizens, Permanent Residents or long-term pass holders, and refuse to undergo the test, will be denied entry into Singapore. Those, who are Permanent Residents or long-term pass holders, and refuse testing, may have their immigration facilities and work pass privileges revoked, or the validity shortened. All flight and cabin crew, including Singapore Citizens, who do not comply with the testing or who cannot be contacted after the test, may face penalties and can be prosecuted under the Infectious Diseases Act.

Managing Unwell Passengers

8 Airlines are reminded to look out for passengers who are, or appear to be, unwell at check-in and before boarding an aircraft to Singapore. Such passengers are to be advised to seek immediate medical attention.

9 During the flight, cabin crew are also to look out for unwell passengers, and refer them to the airline's ground staff upon arrival in Singapore. The ground staff may refer such passengers to the health screening stations available at the airport.

10 All airlines must ensure full compliance with the measures in force, including those contained in previous CAAS circulars.

Alan Foo
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[no signature required]