

Federal Aviation Administration

U.S. FAA COVID-19 Response

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Date: 22 April 2021



Federal Aviation
Administration



Overview

- **The Goal**
- **The beginning and the assumption of Public Health Role**
- **Protecting the Work Force and Operations**
 - Mission Essential
 - At-risk population
 - Training
- **Public Health Measures**
- **Testing and Vaccination**
- **Return to Full Capacity**



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The Goal

Protect our employees in the work site while maintaining the safety of the National Airspace to meet critical national and public health needs.



The Beginning

- **March 2020, Midway Tower and Indianapolis Center**
 - Public Health System was overwhelmed
 - The Office of Aerospace Medicine assumed the Public Health role for FAA employees and facilities
 - Existing staffing model resulted in a significant number of close contacts
 - Closely coordinated with U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and other international organizations
- **Drastic drop in air traffic**
- **Switch from passenger traffic to cargo**



Protecting the Work Force and Operation

- **Initially, staffing reduced to cover the level of traffic**
 - Hard Crews
 - Maximum telework for support personnel
- **Air Traffic Control Specialists with co-morbid conditions putting them at increased risk were given Excused Absence, traffic permitting**
- **Training suspended initially**



Public Health Measures

- **Organizations Employed**

- Social distancing and mask use
- Workplace modifications
- Wipe in/wipe out
- Encourage people with pending tests, close contacts, and sick people to stay home

- **FAA Efforts**

- Excused absences
- Contact tracing
- International and Industry outreach
- Safety Alerts for Operators, Special Federal Aviation Regulations, and Certification Extensions



Testing and Vaccination

- **COVID-19 Testing**

- Not being used at present for return to work site
- People with pending tests for any reason are restricted from facilities until results are known

- **Vaccinations with Emergency Use Authorization**

- Encourage individuals to get vaccinated, cannot require it
- Grounding period following each vaccination for those with airman medicals or ATCS clearances
- Critical Infrastructure, U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention Tier 1c



Return to Full Capacity Operational Facilities

- **Return of personnel**
 - Partially trained
 - Persons at increased risk for severe disease
- **Resumption of Training**
 - Gating criteria to protect the operation
- **Improved/Continued Public Health Measures/Protection**
- **Special Events**



Administrative Facilities

- **Area of Active discussion**
- **Gating Criteria based on the Local situation**
- **Safety paramount**



Questions?

