SAFETY DECISION 2021-02
Issue 17
Date of Issue: 22nd July, 2021

SUBJECT:
FLIGHT AND PASSENGER RESTRICTIONS DUE TO CORONAVIRUS SARS-CoV-2

REFERENCE PUBLICATIONS:
SAFETY DECISION 2020-20

APPLICABILITY:
This SAFETY DECISION applies to all aircraft operators conducting flights from/to the UAE and the following countries:

a) Afghanistan
b) Bangladesh
c) Democratic Republic of Congo
d) India
e) Indonesia
f) Liberia
g) Namibia
h) Nepal
i) Nigeria
j) Pakistan
k) Uganda
l) Sierra Leone
m) South Africa
n) Sri Lanka
o) Vietnam
p) Zambia

Cargo flights shall include "CARGO" in Item 18 of the flight plan.

INTRODUCTION:
The current development on the COVID-19 pandemic leads the UAE to impose new flight and passengers' restrictions.

The UAE government is closely monitoring the situation and will provide further updates and instructions as necessary.

CHANGES:
Issue 17 is issued to render the following category of persons originating from restricted countries eligible to enter the UAE: Expo2020 international participants, Expo2020 exhibitors and personnel sponsored by Expo2020 organiser.

Note: Flight and passenger restrictions period shall be as per issued NOTAMs.

REQUIREMENTS:

All concerned with the operation of a flight shall:
a) Ensure compliance with requirements mentioned in this SAFETY DECISION;
b) Not allow any person to board the aircraft unless compliance with this SAFETY DECISION is assured; and
c) Return unauthorized person arriving UAE to their point of origin.

REQUIREMENT No. 0: BUSINESS AND CHARTER AIRCRAFT
(EFFECTIVITY AS PER RESPECTIVE REQUIREMENT)
a) Business aircraft:
   1) Whenever passengers eligible to enter UAE are transported on a business aircraft, the following shall apply:
      i) Business aircraft is a civil aircraft operated for a purpose other than a scheduled commercial flight and configured with a total number of passenger seats that does not exceed 35;
      ii) The number of passengers on-board a flight with a business aircraft cannot be more than 08; and
      iii) The flight plan with a business aircraft must be submitted with the following additional information: "BUSINESS FLT", the aircraft passenger configuration and the number of passengers on board under item 18.
   2) ANSPs must reject any flight plan for a flight with a business aircraft not in compliance with a)1).
   3) UAE airports must keep record of flight and passengers' data arriving on a business aircraft and provide, upon request, such information to the GCAA.
b) Charter or unscheduled aircraft: With immediate effect, any chartered or unscheduled flight operated on an aircraft other than a business aircraft shall not be allowed unless approved by GCAA. Approval shall be sought 5 days before the flight. Such approval shall be mentioned in the flight plan.

REQUIREMENT No. 0a: OPERATING CREW
(APPLICABLE FOR CREW OPERATING ON FLIGHTS FROM COUNTRIES MENTIONED IN THIS SAFETY DECISION)
(EFFECTIVITY AS PER RESPECTIVE REQUIREMENT)
a) Operating crew from UAE operators shall adhere to required public health protocol before entering the UAE.
b) Operating crew from non-UAE operators may enter the UAE provided that:
   1) They hold a valid PCR test: PCR test is valid when it (i) is showing negative result, (ii) meets the required public health protocol, (iii) is performed within 48 hours before flight to the UAE. Additionally, the PCR Test certificate shall contain a QR code processing at minimum the name of the laboratory, the name of the passenger, the date when the test was performed and the result of the test;
   2) They perform a PCR test in arrival;
   3) They are immediately quarantined in the hotel during the whole transit period;
   4) They wear a monitoring and tracking device; and
   5) Their movement is limited to the required movement between the hotel and the airport without contacting persons of the UAE community.

REQUIREMENT No. 1:

a)	Applicability	1)	All persons from the applicable countries (refer to "APPLICABILITY") arriving at and transiting via all UAE airports.
		2)	All arriving and transit persons from other countries who have been in the applicable countries in the 14 days preceding their flight to the UAE.
b)	Categories allowed to enter UAE	1)	Citizens of the United Arab Emirates and their first degree relatives.
		2)	Diplomatic personnel between the UAE and the applicable countries, including the administrative workers in the embassies of the UAE in these countries and the embassies of the applicable countries.
		3)	Official delegations, subject to obtaining prior approval.
		4)	UAE residents with gold or silver residency permit.
		5)	Expo2020 international participants, Expo2020 exhibitors and personnel sponsored by Expo2020 organiser.
		6)	Crews of cargo flights and transit flights of foreign companies, provided that: they hold a valid PCR test: PCR test is valid when it (i) is showing negative result, (ii) meets the required public health protocol, (iii) is performed within 48 hours before flight to the UAE. Additionally, the PCR Test certificate shall contain a QR code processing at minimum the name of the laboratory, the name of the passenger, the date when the test was performed and the result of the test; i) They perform a PCR test upon arrival; ii) They are immediately quarantined in the hotel during the whole transit period; iii) They wear a monitoring and tracking device; and iv) Their movement is limited to the required movement between the hotel and the airport without coming into close contact with persons of the community.
		7)	Businessmen and businesswomen provided they hold an approval from: v) General Authority for the Security of Ports, Borders and Free Zones; and vi) Heads of higher committees of the Emergency, crisis and disaster management teams of the concerned Emirate.
		3)	Employees belonging to vital functions according to the classification of the Federal Authority for Identity and Citizenship.
c)	Precautionary and preventive measures that apply to the categories allowed to enter UAE	1)	PCR test within (48) hours from the date of departure and provided that: i) It is showing negative result ii) it is conducted by an accredited laboratory; and iii) It bears a QR Code.
		2)	Persons entering UAE shall: i) Be subject to the required public health protocol upon arrival and any Naturalization and Residency conditions; ii) Wear a monitoring and tracking device; iii) Comply with a 10-day quarantine period; and

		iv)	Complete a PCR test upon arrival followed by two other PCR tests on the 4th day and 8th day of their quarantine period.
d)	Categories not covered by this REQUIREMENT of the SAFETY DECISION	1) 2)	Departing passengers from UAE airports to the applicable countries. Operating crew from UAE operators provided they comply, at all times, with National Protocol for the Operation of Airports and Aircraft stated in latest applicable issue of SAFETY DECISION 2020-20.

e)	Additional instructions	1)
		2)
		
		3)
			All arrivals are subject to the Naturalization and Residency conditions in the UAE.
			The approval of the National Emergency Crisis and Disasters Management Authority (NCEMA) must be obtained for:
			  i) Unscheduled flights; and
			  ii) Charter flights.
			
			Note: NCEMA shall be notified at least 5 days before the flight.
			
			Flights to UAE with private aircraft, business aircraft and medivac aircraft shall be pre-authorised by the GCAA before they start their flights.

f)	Transit passengers & flights	1) 2)	Persons transiting through UAE airports -from countries other than the applicable countries and who will travel to the applicable countries- provided that they do not enter the UAE are allowed. Persons transiting through UAE airports from applicable countries and who will travel to other countries are not allowed provided they do not enter the UAE, **except from Afghanistan & Indonesia**.

REQUIREMENT No. 2:
UAE NATIONALS
EFFECTIVE IMMEDIATELY

UAE Nationals shall not be allowed to travel to any countries mentioned in this SAFETY DECISION unless:
a) They are required for a diplomatic mission or Official Economic & Scientific mission;
b) It is for an urgent medical treatment;
c) They are required for an official mission;

Note: For suspected or confirmed positive COVID-19 refer to Appendix 2.

CONTACT:
INFORMATION OR APPROVAL SHALL BE REQUESTED USING BELOW EMAILS ONLY:

a) UAE operators:
   Please do not contact your flight operations inspector & communicate via the below email:
   covidtf@gcaa.gov.ae

b) Foreign operators:
   Please send an email to:

covidtf@gcaa.gov.ae & a copy to
foa@gcaa.gov.ae

APPENDIX 1 – RESERVED

Protocol for confirmed positive cases of UAE National Passenger

Introduction:

UAE National Passenger with Confirmed or Suspected COVID-19, or Close contact with positive confirmed COVID-19, should generally remain in place and not travel until they met the criteria for discontinuing isolation or quarantine period based on National protocol of concerned country. This includes UAE National Passengers return from outside the country or those planning to travel to other countries.

Based on international protocols and health procedures (WHO and CDC); People with confirmed COVID-19 (i.e., those who have tested positive for SARS-CoV-2) are prohibited from traveling on scheduled passenger airline flights.

Even with precautions in place, air travel by such individuals poses a risk to ground crew, airport personnel, aircraft crewmembers, other passengers, and others who may come in to contact with him/her during their travel.

Definitions

- **Confirmed COVID19 Case:**
  A person with laboratory confirmation of COVID-19 infection, irrespective of clinical signs and symptoms
- **Suspected COVID19 Case:**
  Patient present with upper or lower respiratory symptoms "With or Without Fever" AND any of the following;
  1- history of travel to or residence in a location reporting community transmission of COVID-19 disease ;
  2- contact with an individual known as confirmed case of COVID-19 within 14 days;
  3- Influenza like Illness (fever and Cough) without known possible exposure
  <div align="center">OR</div>
  4- Severe acute respiratory infections (SARI) with no other lab result that explains illness

- **Close Contacts with Confirmed COVID19 Case**

    Person who is exposed to confirmed COVID 19 case, in a close less than 2 meters for a period that is more than 15 minutes.

Pretravel COVID19 Management:

Prior to travel , UAE National Passenger should remain in isolation (if symptomatic or tested positive for SARS-CoV-2) or quarantine (if asymptomatic close contact to person with COVID-19) in accordance with the protocol, and guidance of the country where they located .

➤ **Passenger's with confirmed COVID-19**

- o UAE National Passenger outside UAE tested Positive COVID19 (PCR test Positive) he/she should communicate with UAE embassy or the UAE diplomatic mission in the concerned country.
- o The UAE embassy will advise to repeat the test after 48 hours in different accredited Lab.
- o IF the result of the UAE national confirmed positive for the second time and the situation of the person is **Stable. (asymptomatic** without symptom or **mild** symptoms) UAE Embassy will advise the Person to follow the Isolation protocol of the concerned country and inform the UAE health authorities (MOHAP& Local Health authorities) to conduct remote-online and telemedicine for reassurance and follow-up if needed.
- o If the medical condition of the confirmed COVID19 person is, **moderate to severe** embassy / consulate, will arrange for appropriate assessment and evaluation by a healthcare professional for illness severity, clinical stability, and risk for rapid deterioration and identify high quality hospital if available.
- o For **Critical /severe** cases after admission, if the hospital medical services is not meets the international standard of care; UAE Embassy/consulate through Ministry of foreign affairs will send medical reports of the admitted cases to be share with MOHAP and local health authority to evaluate the situation to decide either continue the medical care in the concerned country or medically   evacuation and proper air plane transportation arrangement.

o   After decision of Medical evacuation/transport of COVID19 positive UAE nationals, MOHAP and Local health authority in collaboration with relevant sectors will ensure the readiness and well equipped with air ambulance or Special aircraft with trained crew Staff.

➢   **Passenger's Close contacts with confirmed COVID-19**

UAE National Passenger close contacts should follow the quarantine period based on protocol of the concerned country and after completion of the quarantine period, they can travel back to UAE normally without needed for COVI19 test.

Management of COVID19 On board: (Inside airplane)

If Passengers were discovered to have COVID-19 positive test (not declared before boarding) , or close contacts with confirmed case or if a passenger's shows symptoms(fever cough, shortness of breath …) en route during the flight time, should be handled properly as follows:

1.   Should be immediately provided with a facemask and taken to an isolation area allocated ideally to the rear of the aircraft (last two rows).
2.   Only one dedicated crew should attend sick person.
3.   If possible, one toilet should only be dedicated for sick person.
4.   Crew should inform the ground airport services in advance.
5.   First aid and other medical intervention should be provided as required by medical guidance training manual.
6.   Emergency should be handled as per airline guidelines.
7.   Should not enter publicly accessible areas of the airport terminal at destination.
8.   The aircraft operator must notify the health authority for the airport of arrival before landing, in addition to arranging for medical care and ground transportation in UAE as needed.
9.   Preparation of UAE ambulance cars and staff with full PPE at airport destination.
10. Ensure the confirmed and suspected cases exit the flight first before other passengers with separate door and all precautions measures should in place.

Control measures and precautions for aircraft:

Aircraft operators should follow the infection control precautions when transporting people with COVID-19 or exposed to COVID-19 and should ensure crewmembers are trained in the correct use of

PPE, including correct procedures for donning (putting on) and doffing (taking off). Crew and other frontline staff when dealing with confirmed positive COVID19 should follow:

a) Guidance/instruction of your operator.

b) Applicable Health Authorities Requirements regarding self-isolation (applicable for flight crew and cabin crew).

c) Avoid crowded places and use social distancing (applicable for staff other than flight crew and cabin crew).

d) Avoid contact with sick people.

e) If become sick, or have or a member of household had a risk exposure to COVID-19, report to your operator.

f) Notify the UAE Health Authority if they become symptomatic, in addition to conduct PCR test and get negative result before rejoining the work and reporting to the operator.

References:

1. https://www.cdc.gov/quarantine/interim-guidance-transporting.html

2. /WHO-2019-nCov-IHR_Ship_outbreak-2020.1-eng

3. https://www.icao.int/safety/COVID-19OPS/Pages/default.aspx

4. https://www.canada.ca/en/public-health/services/diseases/2019-novel-coronavirus-infection/latest-travel-health-advice/exposure-flights-cruise-ships-mass-gatherings.html

5. file:///C:/Users/532050/Downloads/WHO-2019-nCoV-Surveillance_Case_Definition-2020.2-eng.pdf