

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

May 21, 2020

Mr. Steve Dickson
Administrator
Federal Aviation Administration
800 Independence Avenue, SW
Washington, DC 20591

Dear Administrator Dickson:

We write to urge the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) to issue formal guidance regarding the implementation of public health measures and use of personal protective equipment (PPE) by travelers and workers in airports across the country.

The COVID-19 pandemic has impacted every sector of our economy and requires a coordinated response from our federal agencies if we are to meet this unprecedented challenge. Because of the integral nature of interstate air travel to our national economy, we write to request that the FAA issue and publicize formal guidance to promote necessary public health measures in airports, such as social distancing, hand washing, and use of masks and PPE. The absence of such guidance risks prolonging this crisis, and threatens the health of the travelling public, Transportation Security Administration employees, air traffic controllers, baggage handlers, and other airport and airline employees.

States across the country have implemented a patchwork of restrictions on travel and social and commercial interaction, even as hotspots of COVID-19 infections and deaths continue to erupt. With an increasing number of states bowing to pressure to “re-open” the economy and lifting restrictions on travel and business operations, the public will seek to resume air travel.

FAA guidance to promote good public health practices will be critical, both to prevent the spread of COVID-19 from state to state, and to restore confidence among the traveling public. Particular attention must be paid to airports in cities that are recovering from their peak and airports in cities that are emerging as hotspots.

While the Center for Disease Control has issued restrictions for those traveling into the United States to prevent the spread of COVID-19 from overseas travel, we are unaware of public health guidance or restrictions to protect domestic travel. Given the variety in infection levels and varied state responses across the United States, we believe that FAA action to issue and publicize public health guidance for domestic airports and travel is a necessary step to protect the flying public and airport workers, and prevent the spread of COVID-19 between the states via air travel.

We look forward to your response as to how the FAA intends to address this critical matter.

Sincerely,



Mary Gay Scanlon
Member of Congress

Additional Signatories to this Letter:

Congressman Don Beyer (VA)
Congressman Jerrold Nadler (NY)
Congresswoman Ayanna Pressley (MA)
Congresswoman Eleanor Holmes Norton (DC)
Congressman Andre' Carson (IN)
Congressman Darren Soto (FL)
Congressman Alcee L. Hastings (FL)
Congressman Alan Lowenthal (CA)
Congressman Ed Case (HI)
Congresswoman Deb Haaland (NM)
Congressman Sanford D. Bishop, Jr. (GA)
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Congressman Jamie Raskin (MD)
Congressman David Trone (MD)