



ICAO

International Civil Aviation Organization
North American, Central American and Caribbean Office

WORKING PAPER

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**North American, Central American and Caribbean (NACC) States Civil Aviation Authorities Directors
General Virtual Meeting on COVID-19 Aviation Recovery and Restart**

14 April 2021

Agenda Item 2: COVID-19 Vaccine Transportation and Certification

COVID-19 VACCINES AND AIR TRAVEL

(Presented by the International Air Transport Association – IATA)

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

While COVID vaccines offer the hope of a return to pre-pandemic normality, for international travel it is important there is a globally consistent and standardized approach to minimize complexity. This is particularly critical with regard to equivalent treatment of different vaccines and mutual recognition and acceptance of vaccination certificates. ICAO, WHO and CAPSCA should lead on ensuring harmonization in these areas.

As more communities around the world gain access to vaccinations, governments and industry should develop a blueprint for post- COVID- air travel with the removal of border restrictions and a return to a full passenger experience during 2021.

This Working Paper suggests Governments should put procedures in place to ensure that travellers who have been vaccinated should not need to undergo COVID testing.

Action:	IATA urges States to regulate for the acceptance of COVID-19 vaccine certificate in lieu of other health-related entry requirements when applicable.
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<i>Strategic Objectives:</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Security & Facilitation
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1. Introduction

1.1 The COVID-19 pandemic has caused unprecedented disruption to the global economy and society, destroying jobs and devastating livelihoods around the world. Aviation and the industries that air travel supports have been particularly badly affected. At the end of 2020, 46 million jobs supported by air travel have been lost or are at risk and as much as \$1.8 trillion in GDP supported by air transport could be lost.

1.2 While the first countries have approved a limited number of vaccines and started to vaccinate their populations, widespread global vaccine roll-out is likely to take at least 12-24 months. This assessment is based on the production rates announced by the vaccine manufacturers, the geographic

distribution of advance market commitments and purchase orders and the likely approach to prioritization of different groups within countries.

1.3 Given the critical state of the airline industry, safely reopening borders using COVID-testing as a bridge solution to relax quarantine and other border restrictions is critical to ensure airline survival, along with the survival of the thousands of businesses and millions of jobs that depend on international air travel.

2. **SUPPORT REQUESTED FROM STATES**

2.1 In the context of international travel, given the reduced impact of any imported cases, countries where vulnerable groups have been vaccinated should no longer require COVID-19 testing. Any residual quarantine measures should immediately be relaxed at this stage.

2.2 While IATA expects that a significant majority of international travellers will be willing to get vaccinated, COVID vaccination should not be a mandatory government requirement for international travel. As the risks of COVID to the local population reduce, imposing requirements on international travellers is not justified. Mandating 2 Vaccines and Air Travel -December 2020 vaccination would discriminate against those individuals who are not able to get vaccinated due to medical reasons or who are unwilling to do so due to ethical or other concerns. Moreover, such a policy would also risk discriminating against those markets where vaccines may take longer to become widely available. As a general principle, travellers to a country should not be subject to stricter conditions than the measures applying for residents.

2.3 As vaccines roll out, Governments should put procedures in place to ensure that travellers who have been vaccinated should not need to undergo COVID testing.

3. **ACTION BY THE MEETING**

3.1 In light of the ongoing public health emergency and border reopening, the meeting is invited to:

- a) Note the information provided in this working paper; and
- b) Enable States to accept vaccinated travellers be exempted from COVID-19 testing or quarantine requirements.