

Ghana Civil



Aviation Authority

Our Ref: CAA/SRD/C12/014/330
Your Ref: EC 6/3-20/46

30th April, 2020

Dig. Add.: GL-135-7178

The Secretary General
International Civil Aviation Organization
999 Robert-Bourassa Boulevard
Montreal, Quebec
Canada H3C 5H7

Dear Madam,

RE: ADHERENCE TO RELEVANT ICAO ANNEX 9 – FACILITATION STANDARDS AND ACTIONS TAKEN BY MEMBER STATES TO REDUCE THE SPREAD OF NOVEL CORONAVIRUS (COVID-19) BY AIR TRANSPORT AND TO PROTECT THE HEALTH OF AIR TRAVELERS AND THE AVIATION PERSONNEL.

We acknowledge receipt of ICAO State letter with reference EC 6/3-20/46 dated 18th March, 2020 on the above subject.

In response to the COVID-19 pandemic, the Government of Ghana has put in place several measures through the Ministry of Aviation and its Agencies to ensure safe air transport operations during this pandemic period.

At the State level, there have been two (2) Executive Instruments issued by the President closing all borders of the country, with all inbound international flights suspended to avoid importation of the virus from affected areas. The announcement of the closure of the borders on 22nd March, 2020 was part of the President's weekly address to the nation amongst other measures for this COVID-19 pandemic period. Kindly find attached a NOTAM published to this effect. Another important measure taken is the aggressive testing rate for COVID-19 infection in Ghana which is one of the highest in Africa according to worldodometer.com.

Ghana Civil Aviation Authority (GCAA) also continued to collaborate with Ghana Health Service (Port Health Authority), Ghana Airports Company Limited (GACL), Security Agencies (Law Enforcement, Immigration and Customs, etc) and other stakeholders on the implementation of public health measures at our airports in accordance with National requirements as well as CAPSCA and WHO requirements and guidelines.

Kindly find attached guidelines developed by the Ghana Health Service for Port Health Services for domestic airports in Ghana for your perusal. Also it is a requirement for all Ghana registered airlines to develop a COVID-19 Management Plan. Attached is a copy of the plan of one of the airlines (Africa World Airlines) in Ghana.

In collaboration with the Office of the President, GCAA continues to facilitate the speedy authorization (expedite approvals without delays) of repatriation flights during this period. Between 23rd March to 30th April, 2020 there has been over thirty (30) of such repatriation flights to various countries in Africa, Europe, Asia, Australia and North America. NOTAMS have been issued to advise of all operational measures to ensure safe exempted passenger and cargo operations during the COVID-19 pandemic period.

GCAA has filed Notification of Temporary Differences in accordance with the COVID-19 Contingency – Related Differences (CCRDs) as part of contingency measures with regards to Ghana's Nationals Directives and ICAO SARPs.

To protect the health of both passengers and Aviation Security personnel, GCAA, in collaboration with GACL and the Airport Security and Facilitation Committee, again took the decision to suspend the 100% passenger check (body patting) through the issuance of Security Instructions. Please find attached a copy of the relevant Security Instructions.

Ghana has considered maintaining Kotoka International Airport (KIA) to the recommended level of operations as per ICAO State Letter AN 13/35-20/4 dated 20th March, 2020 including the provision of the needed resources to deal with risks of exposure to COVID-19 infection.

Please be informed accordingly.

Accept, Madam, the assurances of my highest consideration.



DANIEL ACQUAH
DIRECTOR, SAFETY REGULATION
FOR: DIRECTOR-GENERAL

In case of reply the number and the date of this letter should be quoted.



Ghana Health Service
Private Mail Bag
Ministries
Accra-Ghana

My Ref. No. GHS/DGS/G.2

GPS Address: GA-143-4609

Your Ref No.

Tel: 0302 662014
Fax: 0302 666808
dg@ghsmail.org

21st April, 2020

THE MANAGING DIRECTOR
GHANA AIRPORTS COMPANY LIMITED
KIA - ACCRA

PORT HEALTH SERVICES AT DOMESTIC AIRPORTS

Following the lifting of restrictions on internal air travel and the announcement of measures to enhance surveillance and control the spread of COVID-19 in Ghana, the Ghana Health Service has been tasked with providing port health services at our domestic airports.

The aim of the port health services at the domestic terminals in Ghana will be in line with the functions of port health and will include the following:

1. Screening of passengers and other users (including staff of various airlines and Ghana Airport Company Limited) for signs and symptoms of COVID-19 and other diseases of Public Health Importance
2. Linkage of all suspected cases among passengers and airport staff to the respective district health directorate for further investigation
3. Health education on COVID-19
4. Ensure adherence to social distancing practices within and outside the various airport terminals
5. Monitor the use of hand sanitizers, face masks and adherence to appropriate handwashing by all users of the respective airport terminals
6. Supervise the disinfection of all aircrafts arriving at the respective airports

The Ghana Health Service through its regional health directorates in the Ashanti and the Northern Regions will be providing staff to provide port health services as part of measures to prevent and control the spread of COVID-19 in Ghana. The National Coordinator for Port Health will liaise with your office and the regional health directorates to see to the implementation of these new measures.

Counting on your cooperation.

Thank you.

DR. PATRICK KUMA-ABOAGYE
DIRECTOR GENERAL
GHANA HEALTH SERVICE

CC: The Director General, Ghana Civil Aviation Authority
“ Director Public Health, GHS
“ Regional Directors of Health Services (Ashanti, Western and Northern Regions)
“ Head, Disease Surveillance Department
“ National Coordinator, Port Health

GUIDELINES FOR PORT HEALTH SERVICES FOR DOMESTIC AIRPORTS- GHANA

Before Entry into Terminal Building

1. All persons entering the terminal building must wear a face mask
2. All passengers and other users of the terminal building must maintain a minimum of 2 metres with other persons
3. All persons entering the terminal building will be subjected to a mandatory temperature check
4. All persons entering the terminal building must observe hand hygiene (either handwashing with running water and soap **OR** use of alcohol hand rub
5. Persons showing any clinical symptoms or signs such as fever, cough, sneezing or runny nose will be subjected to further questioning by Port Health Staff

In the Terminal Building

1. All persons in the terminal building including airline staff shall maintain a minimum of 2 metres from the next person except for couples or persons with children
2. Hand sanitizers shall be used by all airline staff each time they attend to a passenger at check in. Airline staff at check-in counters **must not use gloves** during the handling of passenger documents such as ID cards, Passports, tickets and boarding passes
3. Baggage handlers must sanitize their hands after handling each passenger's bag
4. All hand baggage must be disinfected after handling by the airport security staff
5. During check-in, passengers must be advised to have personal bottles of alcohol-based hand sanitizers
6. During check-in, all passengers will be required to answer questions in relation to COVID-19 symptoms and history of contact with a confirmed COVID-19

Before Boarding Aircraft

1. All passengers at the boarding gate must maintain a minimum of 2 metres with other persons. In case of high numbers, there must be controlled entry to the boarding area
2. Airline staff checking the boarding passes of passengers must sanitize their hands
3. Passengers should be guided to detach the duplicate boarding pass so they can be handled by airline staff who may wear gloves at this point
4. All passengers must sanitize their hands before entering the aircraft

On-board Aircraft

1. All passengers and crew must wear face masks during the entire duration of the flight
2. There should be no sharing of food for the entire duration of the flight
3. All passengers must have in their possession personal samples of alcohol hand-sanitizers
4. Passengers must use hand sanitizers before disembarking from the aircraft

Arrival

1. Passengers must maintain the use of the face mask during disembarkation, boarding of ground transport from aircraft to terminal building and during baggage reclaim until exit of terminal building
2. Passengers are encouraged to continue using face masks after exiting terminal building and especially if using passenger vehicles
3. Passengers must use hand sanitizers before exiting the terminal building

Aircraft Cleaning

1. All airlines must ensure that aircrafts are thoroughly cleaned under the supervision of Port Health staff after each trip
2. Cleaning must include all surfaces in the aircraft arm rests, head rests, baggage compartments, washrooms etc and must involve the use of approved disinfectant solutions.