Canada's Response to the COVID-19 Pandemic

Virtual Meeting Directors General of North America of Civil Aviation of Central American and Caribbean (NACC) and South America (SAM)s

Transport Canada / Transports Canada
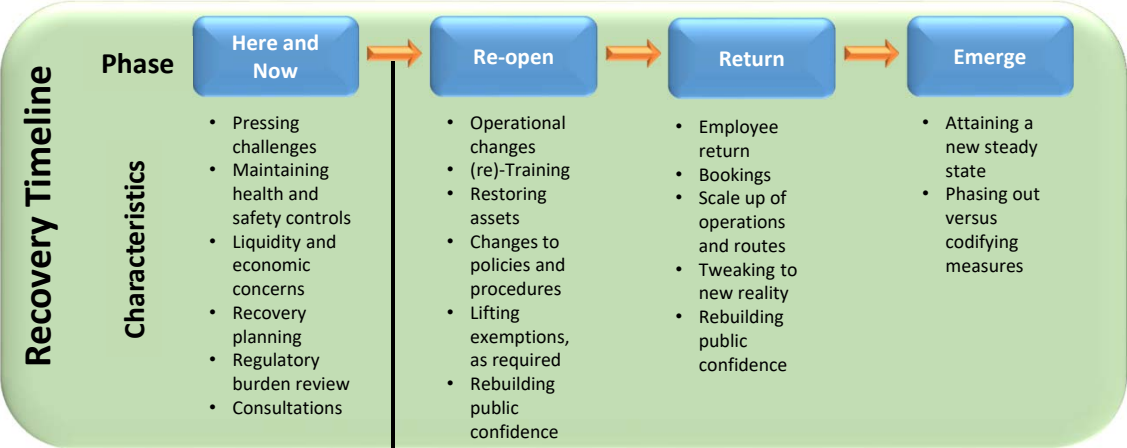
Canada

Overview

- The COVID-19 pandemic has created a global crisis that is having a significant impact on all aspects of the Canadian transportation industry, travellers and the economy.

- Unprecedented and sudden decreases in air passenger volumes have led to lost revenues for all aviation industry stakeholders. Recovery is expected to take far longer than in other industries.

- Immediate and long-term impacts on safety and biosafety have required the industry and Transport Canada (TC) to fundamentally rethink the entire air traveller journey.

- Immediately following the outbreak of the COVID-19 pandemic, TC began working with industry and government partners to implement new safety and security measures.

Air Travel Recovery Framework

- As an immediate first step, TC developed a "Recovery Framework" that outlined categories of measures, stages for recovery, and intervention touch-points within the travel trajectory.

- The "here and now" and "re-opening" stages of the Framework laid the ground work for identifying what immediate measures to implement to address public health concerns and reduce the risk of spreading COVID-19 in the air travel sector.

- Canada is currently in the "Return" phase of the Framework where we are seeing increased flight volumes and are working to regain public confidence in the Canadian aviation system.

COVID-19 Recovery Framework for the Air Travel System

Measures

Economic	Public Health	Regulatory	Non-regulatory
• Recovery scenario modelling • Economic relief support to industry • Stimulus	• Screening • Personal Protective Equipment Requirements • Physical Distancing • Cleaning and Disinfection • Testing • Contact Tracing • Aircrew members	• Review and roll-back of exemptions • Temporary and permanent leniency measures • Review and acceleration of irritant removal • Applies to both regulatory requirements and standards • Fees • Delays in coming into force	• Policy changes • Revised oversight activities plan • Facilitation • Service delivery • International agreements • Digitalization and service delivery transformation

Recovery Timeline

Phase

Here and Now → Re-open → Return → Emerge

Characteristics

Here and Now	Re-open	Return	Emerge
• Pressing challenges • Maintaining health and safety controls • Liquidity and economic concerns • Recovery planning • Regulatory burden review • Consultations	• Operational changes • (re)-Training • Restoring assets • Changes to policies and procedures • Lifting exemptions, as required • Rebuilding public confidence	• Employee return • Bookings • Scale up of operations and routes • Tweaking to new reality • Rebuilding public confidence	• Attaining a new steady state • Phasing out versus codifying measures

Examples of conditions for phase transition

Industry	Public Health	Government
• Personal Protective Equipment • Updated procedures • Disinfection meaures • Crew management	• Public health posture • Testing • Treatment • Immunity status verification	• Border status (domestic and intl) • Regulatory measures • Entry requirements • Oversight capacity

Note: Phase transitions are condition-based and not time-based, we aren't in control

Intervention Touch Points

Passenger	Employee
Check in (online)	Pre-duty
Departure	Report for Duty
In Transit	On Duty
Arrival	End of Duty
Post-Journey	Post-Duty

Government of Canada Measures

- Transport Canada has issued Interim Orders which require air operators and passengers to adhere to the following provisions, among others:
  - Air operators must conduct a mandatory health check of passengers prior to boarding;
  - Air operators are required to deny boarding to any passenger that shows symptoms of COVID-19 or does not pass the mandatory health check;
  - Passengers must undergo temperature checks at the point of origin for inbound flights*; and,
  - All passengers and crew members are required to wear a mask at all times during the boarding process, flight, and deplaning when they are two meters or less from another person.

* Temperature checks will be required at the point of origin for outbound international and domestic flights.

Government of Canada Guidance

- Transport Canada has also released guidance for the aviation industry:
  - The material includes guidance on managing ill passengers; cleaning and disinfection; and crew activities in flight.
  - The full collection of TC-issued guidance can be found here.

- TC has also issued regulatory exemptions, safety bulletins, and alerts to industry in order to support operators throughout the pandemic.

Working with Industry

- Throughout, Transport Canada has collaborated closely with industry to better understand how to support them in their response and recovery efforts.

- For example, TC has met frequently with major industry partners to take stock of the measures that have been put in place.

- From this exercise, we are confident that the Canadian aviation industry has extensive, multi-layered protections that align with ICAO CART Report recommendations.

Next Steps for Canada