


SAFETY INFORMATION AND ADVISORY NOTICE (SIAN)		 Transport Malta Civil Aviation Directorate Safety and Compliance Unit Transport Malta Centre Triq Pantar Lija LJA 2021 Malta aviationsafety.tm@transport.gov.mt
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Subject: COVID-19 Aviation Health Safety Protocol – Revised Issue		

1.0 INTRODUCTION

On May 20, 2020, the **European Union Aviation Safety Agency (EASA)** and the **European Centre for Disease Prevention and Control (ECDC)** under the auspices of the EU published the “COVID-19 Aviation Health Safety Protocol” providing operational guidelines to assist aeroplane operators, airport operators and national aviation authorities in protecting the health and safety of passengers, crews and staff whilst maintaining safe and secure operations.

This evidence-based protocol is the product of a pan-European endeavour to address the public as well as the staff and crew who serve them health and safety issues, by maintaining safe and secure operations whilst minimising the risk of virus transmission related throughout the progressive return to normal of public transport in a standardised and systematic manner. The protocol is addressed to the National aviation authorities, airport operators, aeroplane operators and other aviation stakeholders to implement safety management principles in identifying the risks and implementing the necessary mitigation measures and ensure compliance with national public health requirements.

1.1 Changes in this issue

Since its first issue, the COVID-19 Aviation Health Safety Protocol has been revised in reaction to the changing dynamics of the COVID-19 pandemic, new scientific evidence and medicinal progress.

The initial SIAN issued on the 24th June 2020 encouraged all relevant stakeholders to be signatories to the Charter and also serve as data gathering sources on the implementation of the Aviation Health Safety Protocol. This SIAN (01/20 Rev 1) is amended by omitting the ‘Implementation Status Tool’ and to advise all stakeholders about the revised Aviation Health Safety Protocol. TM-CAD strongly encourages the relevant stakeholders (airport operators, aeroplane operators and other aviation stakeholders) to implement the guidelines.

2.0 IMPLEMENTATION OF THE PROTOCOL

The implementation of the aviation health safety protocol will provide a source of best practice on how airport operators, aeroplane operators conducting commercial and non-commercial passenger

transport operations and national aviation authorities can ensure the health and safety of passengers, as well as the staff and crew who serve them, by maintaining safe and secure operations whilst minimising the risk of virus transmission.

Although in Malta there is no legal requirement to enforce or implement such measures, some countries are mandating these measures through their respective national legislation. This may mean that operators electing not to implement the Protocol recommendations be barred from operating into such countries.

2.1 Management of Change

The scope for management of change has been mandated by the operational environment in which most operators have been operating in since the outbreak of COVID-19. Implementation (or not) of the Health Protocol necessitates operators to manage such changes through their management system. Several operators provided feedback to TM-CAD as required by OAN 05/20 and 07/20 which related to management of passengers and Return to Normal Operations and SIAN 01/20 related to the specific implementation of the Health Protocol.

3.0 ISSUE NO. 3 SUMMARY (17/06/2021)

The COVID-19 Aviation Health Safety Protocol (Issue No. 3) incorporates the latest scientific evidence and expert opinion from ECDC and EASA as well as the latest initiatives of the European Union, such as the EU Digital COVID Certificate (DCC) and the digital Passenger Locator Form (dPLF) and the Council Recommendations on international travel to the EU and intraEU free movement.

The document presents recommended non-pharmaceutical interventions and other measures customised for each stage of the journey as well as risk-based recommendations for entry measures for the three categories of people:

- Persons fully vaccinated according to manufacturers' recommendations,
- Persons who recovered from COVID-19 within the previous 180 days,
- Persons who were not vaccinated and who did not recover from COVID-19 in the previous 180 days.

The recommendations aim to ensure the health and safety of air passengers in a coordinated manner in order to avoid duplication and limit as much as possible queuing and the time spent by the passengers in travel (in the terminal building, aircraft or in-between). In this regard the document emphasises the use of 'one-stop' principles and the importance of a risk-based approach in accordance with safety management system principles.

It is expected that the preventive measures recommended in the operational guidelines can be gradually scaled back over time in line with a reduction of the risk level through the roll out of vaccination campaigns. ECDC and EASA are constantly monitoring the epidemiological situation and will adjust the current recommendations as appropriate.

Safety and Compliance Unit