ORDER

Subject: Review of COVID-19 guidelines for Domestic & International flight operations-reg.

Since the lockdown due to COVID-19 pandemic in March 2020 and subsequent reopening of skies, Ministry of Civil Aviation, from time to time issued guidelines / SOPs for operators, passengers and other stakeholders to ensure smooth conduct of air operations, safety and hygiene of the travelling passengers with a view to prevent the spread of COVID-19 infection during air travel. These guidelines have been modified and relaxed periodically as per the severity of pandemic in consultation with Ministry of Health & Family Welfare (MoHFW). Other regulatory bodies like Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA), Bureau of Civil Aviation Security (BCAS), etc. have also issued guidelines for the stakeholders within their respective domain.

2. Ministry of Civil Aviation (MoCA) had on 10.05.2022 last reviewed the COVID-19 guidelines for international operations under Order No. AV.29017/14/2020-DT.

3. In the light of sustained declining COVID-19 trajectory and significant advances being made in COVID-19 vaccination coverage both globally as well as in India, Ministry of Health & Family Welfare has issued revised ‘Guidelines for International Arrivals’ dated 21.11.2022 in context of COVID-19 pandemic, which are Annexed.

4. In view of the aforementioned MoHFW revised Guidelines, the extant guidelines of MoHFW on submission of self-declaration form on the online Air Suvidha portal stand discontinued.

5. The above decision would be effective from 22.11.2022 (00:01 Hrs IST) until further orders. This will be reviewed, if needed, as per the prevailing situation.

6. This has the approval of the Competent Authority.

(Mritunjaya Sharma)
Deputy Secretary to the Govt. of India

To,

i. Secretary, Civil Aviation, Government of India.
ii. Secretary, Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, Government of India.
iii. Directorate General of Civil Aviation [Kind Attn: Shri Arun Kumar, DG] — with a request to bring the contents of the Order to the notice of all concerned.
iv. Director General, BCAS
v. Shri S.K. Mishra, Joint Secretary, Agreement Section
vi. PS to HMCA
vii. PS to HMoSCA
viii. All Indian Airport Operators & Domestic scheduled airlines for necessary action.
Annexure to Para No.3 of MoCA Order dated 21.11.2022

Dated the 21st November 2022

Government of India
Ministry of Health and Family Welfare

Guidelines for International Arrivals
(in supersession of guidelines issued on the subject on 2nd September 2022)

Introduction

Ministry of Health & Family Welfare has issued ‘Guidelines for International Arrivals’ in context of COVID-19 pandemic and updated the same from time to time. The present guidelines are being revised in light of sustained declining COVID-19 trajectory and significant advances being made in COVID-19 vaccination coverage both globally as well as in India.

Scope

The protocols to be complied by international travellers as well as points of entry (airports, seaports and land border) and shall be valid w.e.f. 22nd November 2022 (00.01 Hrs IST) till further orders.

1. Planning for Travel

   i. All travellers should preferably be fully vaccinated as per the approved primary schedule of vaccination against COVID-19 in their Country.

2. During Travel

   ii. In-flight announcement about the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic including precautionary measures to be followed (preferable use of masks and following physical distancing) shall be made in flights/travel and at all points of entry.

   iii. Any passenger having symptoms of COVID-19 during travel shall be isolated as per standard protocol i.e. the said passenger should be wearing mask, isolated and segregated from other passengers in flight/travel and shifted to an isolation facility subsequently for follow up treatment.

3. On arrival

   iv. De-boarding should be done ensuring physical distancing.

   v. Thermal screening should be done in respect of all the passengers by the health officials present at the point of entry.

   vi. The passengers found to be symptomatic during screening shall be immediately isolated, taken to a designated medical facility as per health protocol (as above).

   vii. All travellers should self-monitor their health post arrival also shall report to their nearest health facility or call National helpline number (1075)/ State Helpline Number in case they have any symptoms suggestive.

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