



GACA Recommendations and Guidelines for Operational Considerations in Managing COVID-19 Risks (Version 2.0)

1.0 SUBJECT:

Guidelines for Resumption of Operations for Airports and Airline Operators post COVID-19 pandemic.

2.0 EFFECTIVITY:

This document is effective 15 October 2020 and replaces the previous GACA Recommendations for Operational Considerations in Managing COVID-19 Risks (Version 1.0) (1441/2110/5 issued on 4-10-1441 H, 27-5-2020).

3.0 APPLICABILITY:

All KSA Airport Operators, Air Operators, and all services providers at KSA Airports.

4.0 PURPOSE:

4.1 This document contains GACA guidelines for the resumption of operations at KSA Airports post COVID-19 pandemic.

5.0 GENERAL:

5.1 The guidelines contained in this document are based on the current guidance and recommendations made by the KSA Ministry of Health (MOH), and the guidance materials provided by the ICAO Council Aviation Recovery Taskforce (CART).

5.2 All KSA airport operators should take all necessary measures to enforce these guidelines on all air operators, service providers, and stakeholders.

5.3 All KSA airport operators, air operators, and service providers, should coordinate their actions in following these guidelines.

5.4 All KSA airport operators, air operators, and service providers, should use the health safety promotion materials contained in these guidelines to educate and guide passengers and aviation workers. Health safety promotion materials are provided for the various sequences associated with air travel which are; at all times, before arriving at the departure airport, at the airport, on board the aircraft and at the arrival airport.

5.5 When differences exist between the guidelines provided by the KSA MOH, and ICAO CART, the most "restrictive" measures should be adopted. For example, social distancing recommended by the ICAO CART is (1 meter) while the KSA MOH recommended social distancing is (1.5 to 2.0 meters). In such a case the social distancing recommended by the KSA MOH should be adopted.

6.0 REQUIREMENTS:

6.1 All KSA airport operators should implement the following preventative measures prior to the full resumption of airport operations:

1. Access to the terminal building should be restricted to airport/airlines staff and travelers (exceptions are made for those accompanying passengers with disabilities or unaccompanied minors).
2. Temperature screening should be implemented at entry points to the terminal buildings, and prior to boarding gates.
3. Strict physical distancing (1.5-2.0 meters) to be observed through all passenger processes, including queue management.

4. The mandatory use of face coverings along with suitable PPE for airlines and airport staff should be applied.
5. The use of self-service by passengers should be encouraged to reduce contact points and queues. This includes remote check-in (electronic/home printed boarding passes), and automated bag drops.
6. Implement the use of passenger health declaration forms, including self – declarations in line with the recommendations of the KSA MOH. Electronic means should be encouraged to avoid paper.
7. Perform routine cleaning and disinfection of frequently touched/exposed surfaces and equipment in accordance with the KSA MOH protocol.
8. Ensure the cleaning and disinfection of passenger coaches prior to each trip. To maintain physical distancing, the passenger coaches should utilize no more than 50% of its passenger’s load capacity in each trip.
9. Develop the required procedure for handling suspect cases who might have failed temperature screening and requiring further medical attention in accordance with the prescribed KSA MOH procedure.
10. Provide hand sanitizers and disinfection products at designated points in the airport/terminal prior to commencement of operations.
11. Follow the KSA MOH prescribed procedure for the disposal of used personal protective equipment and waste management.
12. Follow the KSA MOH prescribed procedure for arriving passengers testing and quarantine arrangements.
13. Ensure that persons not adhering to the COVID-19 preventive measures are appropriately dealt with through the required security enforcement measures.

6.2 All air operators using KSA airports should implement the following preventative measures :

1. Perform aircraft cleaning and disinfection before each flight in accordance with the aircraft cleaning and disinfection guidance provided by the ICAO, EASA, or IATA.
2. Provide guidance material to passengers regarding the application of the preventive measures on board, including (hand hygiene, appropriate use of face masks, respiratory etiquette, minimized onboard services).
3. Ensure that passengers/crew are wearing their face masks properly onboard the flight and have additional masks available for replacement when necessary.
4. Disembarking passengers, including transfer passengers should wear their face mask at all times inside the terminal and when they join their onward flights.
5. Put measures into place to avoid passengers queuing in the aisle or the galleys for the use of the lavatories.
6. Ensure, to the extent possible, physical distancing among passengers is maintained during boarding and onboard the aircraft.
7. Reduce on-board services to the minimum necessary and limit the contact between crew members and passengers.
8. Carry sufficient number of face masks on board to provide to passengers, especially for long-haul flights. A safe mask disposal process should be put in place.
9. Develop procedure for the management and treatment of unruly passengers in the context of the pressures imposed by the pandemic.
10. Ensure that Passengers who do not adhere to the preventive measures in place are refused access to the aircraft cabin, or disembarked, if the events take place before aircraft doors are closed.
11. Develop procedure and ensure that flight crew are trained in the management of passengers on board with COVID-19 compatible symptoms.

6.3 Airport operators, Airline operators and service providers advised to refer to the relevant guidance materials provided by MOH of KSA, GACA and ICAO at the following links:



- **GACA reference Guidance**

1. [Aerodrome Model](#)
2. [Aircraft Model](#)
3. [Crew Model](#)
4. [Cargo Model](#)

- **Forms and Posters**

1. [Aircraft Covid-19 Disinfection Control Sheet](#)
2. [Airport Covid-19 Cleaning / Disinfection Control Sheet](#)
3. [Crew Covid-19 Status Card](#)
4. [Posters in Staff Rest Areas](#)

- **KSA Ministry of Health Guidance (MOH)**

1. <https://covid19awareness.sa/en/home-page>

- **ICAO Take-off CART**

1. <https://www.icao.int/covid/cart/Pages/default.aspx>
2. https://www.icao.int/covid/cart/Documents/CART%20Report%20final_ar.pdf