



Nicholas E. Calio
President and CEO

January 4, 2021

The Honorable Mike Pence
Vice President of the United States
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Ave., NW
Washington, D.C. 20500

Dear Vice President Pence:

Airlines for America (A4A), on behalf of our member passenger carriers¹, is writing to express our support for a Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) proposal to control the spread of COVID-19, including variants of the virus, by implementing a global program to require testing for travelers to the United States. A4A also urges the Administration to move ahead with recommendations to rescind current entry restrictions on travelers from Europe, the United Kingdom and Brazil as soon as possible. These entry restrictions should be removed concurrently with the testing program, which will provide yet another layer of safety in the travel journey.

We are grateful for the support and relief that you and the Administration have provided to assist the airline industry during the pandemic. From the onset, we have worked with you and your colleagues on the Coronavirus Task Force to protect the health and safety of our passengers, crew members and communities while also continuing to provide the essential economic activities on which our country relies. We believe a well-planned program focused on increasing testing of travelers to the United States will further these objectives in a much more effective way than the blanket travel restrictions currently in place.

Carriers have provided the CDC and other agencies feedback regarding how we can work to stand up an international testing program quickly. We strongly support CDC's decision to allow both molecular and antigen testing as a way of facilitating the ability of passengers to access testing. Among the items we discussed are an implementation timeline of at least 14 days so that carriers can effectively communicate new requirements to customers and train staff around the world. Consideration of inadequate testing and results availability in specific countries rather than a blanket worldwide requirement is also needed. Given the scope of this requirement, we would appreciate the government's consideration of making rapid testing available for this effort. Special consideration for unique circumstances such as connecting passengers and U.S. citizens on short round trip journeys need to be factored into the plan as well so as not to discourage travel and the benefits of increased testing. The CDC and other agencies have been open to our feedback and we appreciate the spirit of cooperation in support of the same objectives.

Mr. Vice President, we share optimism that the end of this devastating pandemic is in sight now that safe and effective vaccines are being distributed. We and our employees are extremely proud of the role we are playing in that effort. However, we also know that additional vigorous action is needed in the months ahead to bring the virus under control. We are committed to partnership with the U.S. government in that effort as well, including on an international testing program, and any other ways we can work together to safely and responsibly restore domestic and international air travel.

¹ A4A's passenger carrier members are: Alaska Air Group, Inc.; American Airlines Group, Inc.; Delta Air Lines, Inc.; Hawaiian Airlines; JetBlue Airways Corp.; Southwest Airlines Co.; and United Airlines Holdings, Inc. Hawaiian Airlines has different views than those contained in this letter.

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Thank you again for your leadership, consideration and support.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Nick", written in a cursive style.

Nicholas E. Calio