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BRIEFING NOTE

To: CUPE National Representatives, Airline Division Presidents
Subject: Transportation Canada – Updated Guidance Material
Date: September 22, 2020

Purpose

To notify you on updated guidance material issued by Transport Canada regarding domestic, international and transborder flying.

Background

On September 16, the Canadian Aviation Regulation Advisory Council (CARAC) emailed subscribers with the renewed *Interim Order Respecting Certain Requirements for Civil Aviation Due to COVID-19, No. 8*¹.

On September 17, CARAC email subscribers with updated guidance material for air operators, dated September 15, 2020, which replaces the September 2, 2020 versions, to reflect the updates to the *Interim Order Respecting Certain Requirements for Civil Aviation Due to COVID-19, No. 8*.

Discussion

Domestic Travel

Updates include the addition of temperature screening for passengers departing from a terminal building in one of the airports listed in Schedule 2 of the Interim Order as of September 23, 2020:

- Edmonton International Airport (YEG)
- Halifax Stanfield International Airport (YHZ)
- Kelowna International Airport (YLW)
- Ottawa International Airport (YOW)
- Québec City Jean Lesage International Airport (YQB)
- Regina Airport (YQR)
- Saskatoon John G. Diefenbaker International Airport (YXE)
- St. John's International Airport (YYT)

¹ <https://tc.canada.ca/en/ministerial-orders-interim-orders-directives-directions-response-letters/interim-order-respecting-certain-requirements-civil-aviation-due-covid-19-no-8>

- Billy Bishop Toronto City Airport (YTZ)
- Victoria International Airport (YYJ)
- Winnipeg James Armstrong Richardson International Airport (YWG)

Previously, temperature screenings were only mandatory at the following four major Canadian airports: Calgary International Airport, Montréal / Pierre Elliott Trudeau International Airport, Toronto / Lester B. Pearson International Airport, and Vancouver International Airport.

There are minor clarifications made in Annex C (Removable Non-Medical Masks or Face Coverings) of the Interim Order to provide precision to the guidelines on masks; and an overall edit to ensure consistency in the language of the definition of an infant being less than 2 years old.

A link to provincial/territorial COVID-19 specific information can be found [HERE](#)².

International Travel

There are no substantive updates.

There is an exception of minor clarifications made in Annex E (Removable Non-Medical Mask or Face Covering) of the Interim Order to provide precisions to the guidelines on masks; and an overall edit to ensure consistency in the language of the definition of “infant” to be someone less than 2 years old.

Transborder Travel

There are no substantive updates.

There is a exception of minor clarifications made in Annex E (Removable Non-Medical Mask or Face Covering) of the Interim Order to provide precisions to the guidelines on masks; and an overall edit to ensure consistency in the language of the definition of an infant being less than 2 years old.

Next Steps

CUPE Representatives and Locals should be aware that temperature screenings will now be mandatory at additional Canadian airports. The temperature screening process already implemented for the four starting Canadian airports, and all international and transborder flights will be used. You can access the most updated temperature screening process [here](#)³.

CUPE continues to pressure Transport Canada for additional guidance material and harsher punishments for passengers refusing to respect COVID-19 safeguards. CUPE has heard reports from members of passengers refusing to wear face coverings onboard and passengers with children who refuse to wear face coverings on board. It is understood that children may require constant monitoring, however parents/guardians are using the excuse of their child’s age to prevent them from wear a mask. The order specifically gives the age of two and under as exempt, not any age above.

² <https://www.canada.ca/en/public-health/services/diseases/2019-novel-coronavirus-infection/symptoms/provincial-territorial-resources-covid-19.html?topic=About+COVID-19&about=Where+can+I+get+information+specific+to+my+province+or+territory%3F>

³ <https://tc.canada.ca/en/initiatives/covid-19-measures-updates-guidance-issued-transport-canada/covid-19-measures-updates-guidance-aviation-issued-transport-canada/transport-canada-temperature-screening-standards>

CUPE is aware of at least two incidents of Transport Canada issuing fines to passengers refusing to wear masks⁴. CUPE is pleased that fines have been issued and will continue to push Transport Canada to issue fines for unruly passengers.

Some operators have released statements indicating that unruly passengers will be placed on a “no fly list”. CUPE is supportive of this action and encourages locals to discuss this option with their employers. Delta and United have implemented this practice. United reported approximately 100 passengers already on the list as of mid-August.⁵ Delta reported 270 passengers made the list as of early September.⁶ To date, the following Canadian airlines have released policies/statements indicating they will place non-compliant passengers on “no-fly lists”:

- Air Canada⁷
- Westjet/Swoop/Encore⁸

Locals are encouraged to gather information from the membership/operators about passengers who refuse to comply with COVID-19 safety measures. The discussion on sharing information about passenger conduct should be raised with your employer through the health and safety committees under section 134.1(5) of the *Canada Labour Code* for policy committees to request information related to health and safety.

Conclusion

COVID-19 continues to impact the airline sector. CUPE Representatives and Locals should expect future updates on screening, exemptions, and use of personal protective equipment.

All COVID-19 measures, updates, and guidance for aviation issued by Transport Canada can be found [here](#)⁹. All CUPE COVID-19 updates can be found [here](#)¹⁰.

CUPE continues to support its airline membership through lobbying and campaign efforts. CUPE Representatives and Locals should share the Safer Skies campaign broadly within their networks¹¹.

TRANSMITTAL INFORMATION

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⁴ <https://nationalpost.com/pmn/news-pmn/canada-news-pmn/transport-canada-issues-first-fines-to-air-passengers-who-refused-to-wear-masks>

⁵ <https://www.travelandleisure.com/travel-tips/airline-no-fly-list-face-mask>

⁶ <https://www.forbes.com/sites/elanagross/2020/09/03/delta-adds-270-people-to-no-fly-list-for-refusing-to-wear-a-mask/>

⁷ <https://www.ctvnews.ca/canada/airlines-instituting-new-policies-as-flights-continue-to-land-with-coronavirus-on-board-1.5083437>

⁸ <https://www.westjet.com/en-ca/travel-info/advisories#face-mask>

⁹ <https://tc.canada.ca/en/initiatives/covid-19-measures-updates-guidance-issued-transport-canada/covid-19-measures-updates-guidance-aviation-issued-transport-canada>

¹⁰ <https://cupe.ca/covid-19>

¹¹ <https://cupe.ca/canadas-flight-attendants-call-federal-government-make-safer-skies-priority-next-phase-pandemic>