



## FEDERATION OF INDIAN PILOTS

**FIP/DGCA/21 - 05**

**22nd April 2021**

To  
Shri Arun Kumar, IAS  
Director General of Civil Aviation

**SUB: Immediate Suspension of BA Tests For Aircrew Due to Covid-19 Risk**

Sir,

The FIP is a registered organization comprising approximately five thousand pilots from all groups in the Civil Aviation Sector.

In the light of the unprecedented surge in COVID-19 cases nationwide, it is requested that Breath Alcohol Tests for aviation personnel are temporarily suspended across your jurisdiction, with immediate effect, to prevent the spread of infection - as was done by your office last year during the onset of the first wave of the pandemic.

Some of the factors that could aggravate the Covid related risks that have been brought to our notice by our members are:

- 1) Viability of the Coronavirus on BA testing machines, each of which are often used on multiple individuals - many of whom could now be asymptotically infected.
- 2) Open air disposal of potentially infected blow tubes in the testing area, by some operators, that amplify the risk of spreading the virus.
- 3) Unmasking of aircrew while undergoing the BA test and consequent dangers of exposure to virus laden aerosols (especially since the virus has now been proven to be airborne).
- 4) Inadequately sanitised and poorly ventilated testing rooms, resulting in virus laden touch points and surfaces

It may be pertinent to mention that the critical role played by aircrew to run this strategically important industry, especially for the expedient transportation of medical supplies and vaccines, makes it imperative that every

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preventive measure is now taken to stop the rapid spread of the disease amongst aircrew and to ensure the smooth running of flight operations - in the public, commercial and national interest.

Thanking you

Yours faithfully

Capt. Surinder Mehta  
President – Federation of Indian Pilots

cc: Hon Minister, MoCA

cc: Secretary, MoCA

cc: Secretary, MoHFW

cc: DG, ICMR

cc: Secretary, NDMA

cc: DMS (CA), DGCA

cc: Director, National Center for Disease Control (NCDC)