

The International Federation of Air Line Pilots' Associations



IFALPA
The Global Voice of Pilots

23 March 2020

To: All IFALPA Member Associations

IFALPA PGA COVID-19 Industrial Response Team (COVID-19 IRT)

Dear Colleagues,

The COVID-19 Industrial Response Team was convened in response to the unprecedented events, occurring on a global scale, which have caused governments and our industry to react aggressively in response to the COVID-19 outbreak.

The Scope and Terms of Reference for this group have yet to be finalized. The initial role of this team will be to request, collect, and analyze information regarding industrial responses to the crisis and provide information and guidance to MAs desiring assistance.

The current pace of developments can feel overwhelming. Many MAs and their volunteer pilot representatives may find it challenging to respond to the needs of both their members and employers. You are not alone in this – IFALPA is here to help.

The team is made up of volunteer pilots and industry experts who have experienced industry downturns and subsequent restructuring in the aviation industry:

Gad Ariel – IFALPA Legal Committee Chair
Emily Bitting – IFALPA Senior Communications Specialist
Hilario Castillo Chavarri – IFALPA PGA Committee Chair
Sebastián Currás Barrios – IFALPA PGA Officer
Otjan de Bruijn – IFALPA EVP Europe
Daniel Dickson – IFALPA PGA Committee Vice Chair
Dean Fotti – IFALPA PGA Committee Vice Chair
Bob Fox – ALPA-I First Vice President
Kelly Ison – APA/Alliances
Mike Jackson – IFALPA Technical Director and Representative to ICAO
Ana McAhron-Schulz – Consultant
Jack Netskar – IFALPA President
Christoph Schewe – IFALPA Managing Director
Brian Shury – IFALPA EVP PGA
Rune Sundland - Consultant
Jay Wells - IFALPA Legal Committee Vice Chair and ALPA-I Attorney

The first conference call meeting of the COVID-19 IRT was held on Friday 20 March at 2300Z. Initial discussions were based on information sharing and desired outputs of the team. The team plans to meet via teleconference on a weekly basis or more frequently as required. Information and guidance to MAs will follow on from these meetings.

The initial guidance to MAs is to remain calm. The situation is likely to get worse before things turn around, but we believe there will be a strong aviation industry at the other end of this crisis. Our goal is to have a stabilizing influence on what our industry looks like on the other side. Our success will be based on how well we can coordinate our actions on a State, regional, and global level. Coordination has been challenging during this initial shock, but we need to enhance our efforts moving forward.

Most of the initial agreements we are seeing are for 30 to 60 days duration and are meant to provide immediate relief to airlines in this acute period of plunging demand for air travel. There is likely more to follow from airlines once this initial crisis period stabilizes. Defer longer-term discussions until then. We plan to create a repository of current agreements on the IFALPA Hub very soon and will update you when this becomes active.

We should be willing to do our part to assist our airlines in this time of crisis, but we must insist on being an active stakeholder in the recovery. There will very likely be increased consolidation as a result of the events unfolding around us. We encourage all pilot groups to keep in close contact and coordination in order to obtain the most fair and equitable results for pilots within airline families, States, and regions.

Unlike most industry stress events of the past; this one affects all of us. Look after each other. This is a very stressful time for many. We are all aware from our training that people under stress can make poor decisions, both personally and professionally. Make sure your members are aware of the assistance available to them through IFALPA and your own Member Associations and operators. Encourage your members to watch out for those in vulnerable positions and encourage them to seek assistance.

This team will keep you up to date with further information and guidance as it comes to hand.

In Unity,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "BS".

Cpt. Brian Shury
Executive Vice President, Professional & Government Affairs