Maggie YL Wong  
Chairlady, Airline Operators Committee  
Room 6S007, Level 6, Passenger Terminal Building  
Hong Kong International Airport  
Lantau, Hong Kong  

Dear Maggie,

Mandatory COVID-19 testing for crew members

In view of the widespread COVID-19 transmission globally and recent upsurge of imported confirmed cases detected from inbound travellers (including exempted persons such as crew members) arriving at Hong Kong via the Hong Kong International Airport (HKIA), we would like to inform all airline operators about the strengthened testing arrangement for arriving crew members (including pilots).

With an aim of early identification of COVID-19 cases and to further prevent local spread of the disease, starting 8 July 2020 (Wednesday), all crew members entering Hong Kong via the HKIA will be subject to mandatory COVID-19 testing. Upon passing the Port Health station, crew members will be issued a Notification of Medical Examination/ Tests which will require them to attend the Department of Health (DH)’s Temporary Specimen Collection Centre (TSCC) at AsiaWorld-Expo (AWE) and conduct COVID-19 testing. After collecting their deep throat saliva specimens, crew members are allowed to leave the TSCC without the need to wait for the results there. If the test result is positive, the crew member will be contacted by the phone number provided, and hospital admission will be arranged as soon as possible. If he/she is not contacted by DH staff after 3 working days, that means the result is negative (no call will be received). You may wish to remind your staff that, under the Prevention and Control of Disease Regulation (Cap. 599A), failure to comply to the testing requirement is an offence and will be liable to a fine and imprisonment.
On the other hand, shuttle buses are provided as usual at the coach loading area at Cheong Tat Road. Persons who are exempted from compulsory quarantine (including crew members) will get onto a different shuttle bus from other travellers to the AWE. Please follow the instructions of the on-site staff for getting onto the corresponding shuttle.

Given that the situation of COVID-19 infection remains severe and that there is a continuous increase in the number of cases reported around the world, your staff are strongly urged to adopt the following precautionary measures to minimise the risk of infection:

- Maintain good personal hygiene at all times and perform hand hygiene frequently.
- Reduce social activities and maintain appropriate social distance with other people as far as possible.
- Wear a surgical mask when required to work face-to-face with public or in crowded area.

For the latest updates on COVID-19 situation, please visit the Government’s Thematic Website (https://www.coronavirus.gov.hk/eng/index.html).

Thank you very much for your ongoing support in combating infectious diseases.

Yours sincerely,

(Dr Cynthis LAM)
for Director of Health