

A significant minority of people with coronavirus do not show symptoms and when symptoms are shown, these are rarely of sudden onset.

Aircraft operators should consider a thorough risk assessment to manage the scenario in which the isolated passenger requires help on board

If a passenger shows symptoms of coronavirus consider the following measures:

Prior to take off

Inform airport and local health authorities and follow their instructions if a passenger suspected of having coronavirus is identified on board before take-off.

If no specific direct contact has taken place between the symptomatic passenger and crew members, no additional measures need to be taken with regards to the management of the crew members, unless as otherwise advised by the local public health authorities., or as indication in airline procedures

After take-off

Crew should make sure that the passenger is wearing their face covering properly and has additional coverings available to replace it in case it becomes wet after coughing or sneezing.

If a face covering cannot be tolerated, the sick person should cover their mouth and nose with tissues when coughing or sneezing.

Used face coverings and tissues should be disposed of safely and hand hygiene encourage

The passenger should be isolated on board.

Isolation areas should be planned, considering the aircraft configuration and minimizing the risks of transmission to other passengers.

Depending on the configuration and to the extent that is practicable, the isolation area should be 2 rows of seats in all directions around the symptomatic passenger.

For example, symptomatic passengers can be isolated where they are currently seated by moving other passengers, or by moving the symptomatic passenger to the rear of the aircraft.

If possible, the toilet closest to the suspected passenger should be specifically designated for them and not be used by the rest of the passengers or the crew.

Where possible, the senior cabin crew member should designate specific crew member(s) to provide the necessary in-flight service to the isolation area(s).

If a cabin crew member had prior contact with the symptomatic passenger, then this should be considered in such designation.

Designated crew should make use of the PPE in the aircraft's universal precaution kit. Minimise close contact with other crew members.

Avoid unnecessary contact with other passengers, and clean hands as often as practical.

Where possible, the individual air supply nozzle for the symptomatic passenger should be turned off or adjusted to limit the potential spread of respiratory droplets.

If the suspected passenger is travelling accompanied, the passenger's companions should be also confined in the isolation area even if they do not exhibit any symptoms.

On flights with a passenger showing symptoms of coronavirus, the crew should seek the advice of a Port Health Officer or equivalent before any passengers disembark.

After landing

Follow instructions of local port health officer or equivalent

Where possible other passengers should be disembarked first

The isolated passengers should be transferred in accordance with the instructions provided by the local public health officer, or equivalent.

Crew should accurately identify passengers located within 2 seats in each direction of symptomatic passenger / passenger group during the flight to ensure accurate post-flight contact tracing.

The crew member designated to provide on-board services for the passenger suspected of having coronavirus, and other crew members who may have been in direct contact with that passenger, should be provided on landing with transportation to facilities where they can clean themselves before having physical contact with other people.

Alternatively, after carefully disposing of the used PPE in a double bag and washing their hands for at least 20 seconds and drying them, the respective cabin crew members could be isolated on board before return to base or a layover destination.