

JOHN THUNE, SOUTH DAKOTA  
ROY BLUNT, MISSOURI  
TED CRUZ, TEXAS  
DEB FISCHER, NEBRASKA  
JERRY MORAN, KANSAS  
DAN SULLIVAN, ALASKA  
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TODD YOUNG, INDIANA  
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MARIA CANTWELL, WASHINGTON  
AMY KLOBUCHAR, MINNESOTA  
RICHARD BLUMENTHAL, CONNECTICUT  
BRIAN SCHATZ, HAWAII  
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TOM UDALL, NEW MEXICO  
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TAMMY DUCKWORTH, ILLINOIS  
JON TESTER, MONTANA  
KYRSTEN SINEMA, ARIZONA  
JACKY ROSEN, NEVADA

# United States Senate

COMMITTEE ON COMMERCE, SCIENCE,  
AND TRANSPORTATION

WASHINGTON, DC 20510-6125

WEBSITE: <http://commerce.senate.gov>

March 3, 2020

W. Douglas Parker  
Chairman and Chief Executive Officer  
American Airlines Group Inc  
1 Skyview Drive  
Fort Worth, TX. 76155

Dear Mr. Parker:

On Wednesday, March 4, 2020, the Senate Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation's Subcommittee on Aviation and Space will hold a hearing on aviation and the spread of the novel coronavirus (COVID-19). The goal of the hearing is to identify any gaps in the Federal guidance or assistance to U.S. air carriers. In addition, we want to work with U.S. air carriers to fully understand and mitigate risk to air carrier personnel and the traveling public.

Since COVID-19 was first identified in Wuhan, China, last year, the virus has spread to a number of countries throughout the world, including the United States, by air travel. This spread has raised understandable concerns by public health officials and the traveling public about measures that can be taken to prevent the further spread of COVID-19 through air travel. To date, however, there has been limited public guidance issued by the U.S. Department of Transportation (DOT) or other Federal health and security agencies regarding steps U.S. air carriers or the traveling public should take to address COVID-19. Therefore, in order to more fully understand the measures your airline is taking in response to COVID-19 and additional Federal steps and resources that may be needed, I request that you provide the following information:

- 1) Does your airline have a pandemic response plan?
  - a. If so, please provide a copy of that plan or protocols, and indicate whether the plan has been implemented for some or all operations.
  - b. Has the DOT provided adequate guidance to your airline on this plan or protocol specific to COVID-19? If not, would such additional guidance be helpful?
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  - d. Whether these policies have been vetted with the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), the World Health Organization (WHO), or similar independent health or disease control entity; and

- e. Whether additional guidance or standardized recommendations on COVID-19 specific airline disinfection practices would be helpful from the DOT or CDC.
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  - 4) Please detail your company's policies regarding the waiver of change or cancellation fees when a passenger indicates that they have, or suspect they may have, a serious communicable disease.
    - a. If your company does not have such a policy, do you plan to implement such a policy and communicate the specifics of that policy to the public?
    - b. Would standardized guidance from DOT regarding change and cancellation policies be helpful in this area?

Thank you in advance for your assistance with this request. Please provide the requested information as soon as possible and in no event later than March 9, 2020.

Sincerely,

  
MARIA CANTWELL  
Ranking Member

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JOHN KEAST, STAFF DIRECTOR  
DAVID STRICKLAND, DEMOCRATIC STAFF DIRECTOR

March 3, 2020

Edward H. Bastian  
Chief Executive Officer  
Delta Air Lines, Inc.  
1030 Delta Boulevard  
Atlanta, GA. 30354

Dear Mr. Bastian:

On Wednesday, March 4, 2020, the Senate Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation's Subcommittee on Aviation and Space will hold a hearing on aviation and the spread of the novel coronavirus (COVID-19). The goal of the hearing is to identify any gaps in the Federal guidance or assistance to U.S. air carriers. In addition, we want to work with U.S. air carriers to fully understand and mitigate risk to air carrier personnel and the traveling public.


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JOHN KEAST, STAFF DIRECTOR  
DAVID STRICKLAND, DEMOCRATIC STAFF DIRECTOR

March 3, 2020

Oscar Munoz  
Chief Executive Officer  
United Airlines Holdings, Inc.  
233 S Wacker Drive  
Chicago, IL. 60606

Dear Mr. Munoz:

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JOHN KEAST, STAFF DIRECTOR  
DAVID STRICKLAND, DEMOCRATIC STAFF DIRECTOR

Gary C. Kelly  
Chairman and Chief Executive Officer  
Southwest Airlines Co.  
2702 Love Field Drive  
Dallas, TX. 75235

Dear Mr. Kelly:

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## COMMITTEE ON COMMERCE, SCIENCE, AND TRANSPORTATION

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March 3, 2020

**Bradley D. Tilden**  
Chairman, President and Chief Executive Officer  
Alaska Air Group, Inc.  
19300 International Boulevard  
SeaTac, WA. 98188

Dear Mr. Tilden:

On Wednesday, March 4, 2020, the Senate Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation's Subcommittee on Aviation and Space will hold a hearing on aviation and the spread of the novel coronavirus (COVID-19). The goal of the hearing is to identify any gaps in the Federal guidance or assistance to U.S. air carriers. In addition, we want to work with U.S. air carriers to fully understand and mitigate risk to air carrier personnel and the traveling public.

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March 3, 2020

JOHN KEAST, STAFF DIRECTOR  
DAV D STRICKLAND, DEMOCRATIC STAFF DIRECTOR

**Robin Hayes**  
Chief Executive Officer  
JetBlue Airways Corporation  
27-01 Queens Plaza N  
Long Island City, NY. 11101

Dear Mr. Hayes:

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JOHN KEAGY, STAFF DIRECTOR  
DAVID STRICKLAND, DEMOCRATIC STAFF DIRECTOR

March 3, 2020

Edward M. Christie  
President and Chief Executive Officer  
Spirit Airlines, Inc.  
2800 Executive Way  
Miramar, FL. 33025

Dear Mr. Christie:

On Wednesday, March 4, 2020, the Senate Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation's Subcommittee on Aviation and Space will hold a hearing on aviation and the spread of the novel coronavirus (COVID-19). The goal of the hearing is to identify any gaps in the Federal guidance or assistance to U.S. air carriers. In addition, we want to work with U.S. air carriers to fully understand and mitigate risk to air carrier personnel and the traveling public.

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JERRY MORAN, KANSAS  
DAN SULLIVAN, ALASKA  
CORDY GARDNER, COLORADO  
MARSHA BLACKBURN, TENNESSEE  
SHELLEY MOORE CAPITO, WEST VIRGINIA  
MIKE LEE, UTAH  
RON JOHNSON, WISCONSIN  
TODD YOUNG, INDIANA  
RICK SCOTT, FLORIDA

MARIA CANTWELL, WASHINGTON  
AMY KLOBUCHAR, MINNESOTA  
RICHARD BLUMENTHAL, CONNECTICUT  
BRIAN SCHATZ, HAWAII  
EDWARD MARKEY, MASSACHUSETTS  
TOM UDALL, NEW MEXICO  
GARY PETERS, MICHIGAN  
TAMMY BALDWIN, WISCONSIN  
TAMMY DUCKWORTH, ILLINOIS  
JON TESTER, MONTANA  
KYRSTEN SINEMA, ARIZONA  
JACKY ROBBEN, NEVADA

# United States Senate

COMMITTEE ON COMMERCE, SCIENCE,  
AND TRANSPORTATION

WASHINGTON, DC 20510-6125

WEBSITE: <http://commerce.senate.gov>

March 3, 2020

JOHN KEAST, STAFF DIRECTOR  
DAVID STRICKLAND, DEMOCRATIC STAFF DIRECTOR

**Maurice J. Gallagher**  
Chairman and Chief Executive Officer  
Allegiant Travel Company  
1201 N. Town Center Drive  
Las Vegas, NV. 89144

Dear Mr. Gallagher:

On Wednesday, March 4, 2020, the Senate Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation's Subcommittee on Aviation and Space will hold a hearing on aviation and the spread of the novel coronavirus (COVID-19). The goal of the hearing is to identify any gaps in the Federal guidance or assistance to U.S. air carriers. In addition, we want to work with U.S. air carriers to fully understand and mitigate risk to air carrier personnel and the traveling public.

Since COVID-19 was first identified in Wuhan, China, last year, the virus has spread to a number of countries throughout the world, including the United States, by air travel. This spread has raised understandable concerns by public health officials and the traveling public about measures that can be taken to prevent the further spread of COVID-19 through air travel. To date, however, there has been limited public guidance issued by the U.S. Department of Transportation (DOT) or other Federal health and security agencies regarding steps U.S. air carriers or the traveling public should take to address COVID-19. Therefore, in order to more fully understand the measures your airline is taking in response to COVID-19 and additional Federal steps and resources that may be needed, I request that you provide the following information:

- 1) Does your airline have a pandemic response plan?
  - a. If so, please provide a copy of that plan or protocols, and indicate whether the plan has been implemented for some or all operations.
  - b. Has the DOT provided adequate guidance to your airline on this plan or protocol specific to COVID-19? If not, would such additional guidance be helpful?
- 2) Please detail your aircraft cleaning policies, including:
  - a. Disinfection measures after each domestic or international flight;
  - b. End-of-day cleaning and disinfection policies;
  - c. Policies for disinfecting aircraft when a passenger with COVID-19 or other serious communicable disease is identified or detected on a recent flight;
  - d. Whether these policies have been vetted with the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), the World Health Organization (WHO), or similar independent health or disease control entity; and

- e. Whether additional guidance or standardized recommendations on COVID-19 specific airline disinfection practices would be helpful from the DOT or CDC.
- 3) Please detail your company's policy for notifying other passengers on a flight where COVID-19 or other serious communicable disease is detected or later discovered. Would further Federal guidance in this area from the DOT or CDC be helpful?
- 4) Please detail your company's policies regarding the waiver of change or cancellation fees when a passenger indicates that they have, or suspect they may have, a serious communicable disease.
  - a. If your company does not have such a policy, do you plan to implement such a policy and communicate the specifics of that policy to the public?
  - b. Would standardized guidance from DOT regarding change and cancellation policies be helpful in this area?

Thank you in advance for your assistance with this request. Please provide the requested information as soon as possible and in no event later than March 9, 2020.

Sincerely,

  
MARIA CANTWELL  
Ranking Member



JOHN THUNE, SOUTH DAKOTA  
ROY BLUNT, MISSOURI  
TED CRUZ, TEXAS  
DEB FISCHER, NEBRASKA  
JERRY MORAN, KANSAS  
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March 3, 2020

JOHN KEAST, STAFF DIRECTOR  
DAVID STRICKLAND, DEMOCRATIC STAFF DIRECTOR

**Barry L. Biffle**  
**President and Chief Executive Officer**  
**Frontier Airlines, Inc.**  
**7001 Tower Road**  
**Denver, CO. 80249**

Dear Mr. Biffle:

On Wednesday, March 4, 2020, the Senate Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation's Subcommittee on Aviation and Space will hold a hearing on aviation and the spread of the novel coronavirus (COVID-19). The goal of the hearing is to identify any gaps in the Federal guidance or assistance to U.S. air carriers. In addition, we want to work with U.S. air carriers to fully understand and mitigate risk to air carrier personnel and the traveling public.

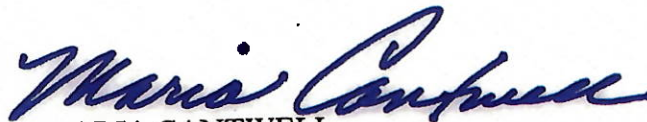
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Ranking Member

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JOHN KEAST, STAFF DIRECTOR  
DAVID STRICKLAND, DEMOCRATIC STAFF DIRECTOR

March 3, 2020

Peter R. Ingram  
President and Chief Executive Officer  
Hawaiian Holdings, Inc.  
3375 Koapaka Street  
Honolulu, HI. 96819

Dear Mr. Ingram:

On Wednesday, March 4, 2020, the Senate Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation's Subcommittee on Aviation and Space will hold a hearing on aviation and the spread of the novel coronavirus (COVID-19). The goal of the hearing is to identify any gaps in the Federal guidance or assistance to U.S. air carriers. In addition, we want to work with U.S. air carriers to fully understand and mitigate risk to air carrier personnel and the traveling public.

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