



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

MBJ AIRPORTS LIMITED EMPLOYS PRECAUTIONARY MEASURES IN RESPONSE TO COVID – 19

Montego Bay, Jamaica, 14 March 2020.

The COVID-19 outbreak is of significant concern to MBJ Airports Limited (“MBJ”), the operator of the Sangster International Airport (“the Airport”).

In an effort to protect the health and safety of our passengers, staff and community, we have effected heightened sensitization, communication, screening and sanitization at the Airport. MBJ continues to work closely with the Ministry of Health and Wellness (MoHW) and is employing international best practices as precautionary measures to manage and control this current global public health crisis.

Below lists specific mitigating plans and facilitation measures implemented at the Airport:

- Installation of a new fever scan machine by MoHW within the Airport’s arrival area, bringing the total complement to two units. These units are used to screen passengers, detecting high body temperature and triggering action by Port Health;
- Ensured operability of existing Isolation and Surveillance areas operated by MoHW Port Health staff. Passengers that have been risk assessed by Port Health and deemed necessary for isolation are temporarily isolated at this area and subsequently transported to an off-site MoHW facility;
- Increasing the frequency of the Airport’s cleaning and sanitization activities; and
- Installation of hand sanitizing stations throughout the terminal for passenger use.

In an effort to keep the Airport community informed, sensitization sessions have been hosted and communication continues to be shared. These include the following:

- Sensitization sessions on prevention of COVID-19 facilitated by Director, International Health Regulations Unit, MoHW, during January, February and March 2020 for all Airport stakeholders to include Passport, Immigration & Citizenship Agency, Jamaica Customs Agency and other Airport employees;
- MBJ facilitates communication between MoHW and airline stakeholders to clarify new requirements and emerging travel restrictions;
- MBJ has encouraged all entities operating at the Airport to re-train their respective staff members on communicable disease prevention and to disseminate information on COVID-19 prevention
- MBJ continues to disseminate updates, recommendations on COVID-19 prevention and situational reports to stakeholders as published by MoHW;
- Coordination and facilitation of a recent Communicable Disease Response Table Top Exercise to ensure coordinated response from agencies in the event of an airport emergency involving communicable disease;
- Provision of updates on HR procedures aimed at preventing transmission to MBJ staff members and maintaining Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) and sanitizing products for use by MBJ staff as needed;
- Facilitated the placement of information signage throughout the terminal informing users on how they can protect themselves; and
- Providing frequent updates on the Airport’s status and prevention tips via social media.



To reduce the introduction and spread of the disease, MBJ has implored all stakeholders to:

- Share information with staff and conduct training and re- training where necessary;
- Review their existing cleaning and sanitation procedures;
- Ensure stocks of sanitizing products are maintained for use by staff;
- Act in accordance with specific recommendations, based on stakeholder operations and related Industry-specific guidance to prevent the spread of the disease; and
- Explore the option of members of one team working from different locations where possible to ensure continuity should there be an outbreak in the workspace.

Protect yourself from getting infected

World Health Organization’s standard recommendations for the general public to reduce exposure to and transmission of a range of illnesses are as follows, which include hand and respiratory hygiene:

- Frequently clean hands with soap and water or by using alcohol-based hand rub;
- When coughing and sneezing cover mouth and nose with flexed elbow or tissue – throw tissue away immediately and wash hands; and
- Avoid close contact with anyone who has cold or flu-like symptoms.

Contact continues to be maintained with the Director, International Health Regulations, and Ministry of Health.

The Ministry of Health & Wellness (MoHW) continues to be the primary agency responsible for the interception, surveillance, isolation, treatment of passengers to mitigate the spread of communicable disease locally in coordination with WHO, and MBJ remains committed to supporting the activities of the Ministry and WHO to contain the transmission of the virus.

About MBJ Airports:

MBJ Airports Limited, operator of Sangster International Airport, connects Jamaica to more than 60 international destinations. A record of 4.7m passengers used the airport in 2019. MBJ operates SIA under a 30-year concession awarded in 2003 and the airport provides employment to more than 7,500 persons. SIA has been named the Caribbean’s Leading Airport by World Travel Awards for 13 years.

Media Inquiries:

Sharon Hislop, Manager, Commercial Development & Marketing

T: +1 876 952 3124 | E: shislop@mbjairport.com | www.mbjairport.com