

# COVID-19 Press Conference The Americas

August 20, 2020

**Peter Cerdá**

Regional Vice President, The Americas



# Airlines need a clear plan to restart operations



The industry will only recover in 2024.

Passenger numbers to fall by around 55% this year.

At risk: 4.1 million jobs and US\$98 billion in GDP supported by aviation & tourism.





# Argentina

- Uncertainty when the industry can resume operations.
- Positive news:
  - Ministry of Tourism proposed legislation to promote domestic tourism in Argentina: Possible 50% reimbursement to passengers for tourism-related expenditures.

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# Colombia

- Welcomed President Duque's announcement to reopen 15 airports for domestic flights on September 1.
- Urgent need for decree to be signed to restart.

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# Peru

- Urgent clarification needed when international flights will be allowed to restart.
- Calling on authorities to work closely with the industry to allow aviation play a key role in Peru's economic recovery.

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# Paraguay

- Specific date needed for international restart.
- Financial Relief Granted:
  - Temporary exemption for airlines from charges for air traffic control, operations, parking and ground assistance
  - 50% reduction of applicable charges at airports will be granted until June 30, 2021.

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# Panama

- Resumption of air services on a very limited basis.
- Entry is restricted to citizens and residents, but Tocumen Airport can be used to connect between flights.

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# Costa Rica

- Announced the expansion of countries from which travel to Costa Rica will be possible, including some specific states of the USA.
- Requirements for travel insurance have also been updated.

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# Ecuador

- Change of quarantine requirements:
  - Providing proof of a negative PCR test on arrival now alleviates the necessity for quarantine.

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# The industry is ready to restart



Strict biosafety  
protocols in  
place.

Collaboration &  
harmonization  
key to restart.

Allow aviation to  
reconnect the  
Americas to the  
world



# Questions?



**Peter Cerdá**  
Regional Vice President  
The Americas





# COVID-19 testing\* could be a useful layer of protection for travelers from higher risk countries, if...

**Accuracy** ✓  
Extremely high accuracy is essential. False positives and false negatives must be below 1%.

<1%

AIRPORT



## Departure airport

If tested at the departure airport, a positive result would mean no onward travel. However, airlines have been offering flexibility through rebooking or refunds.

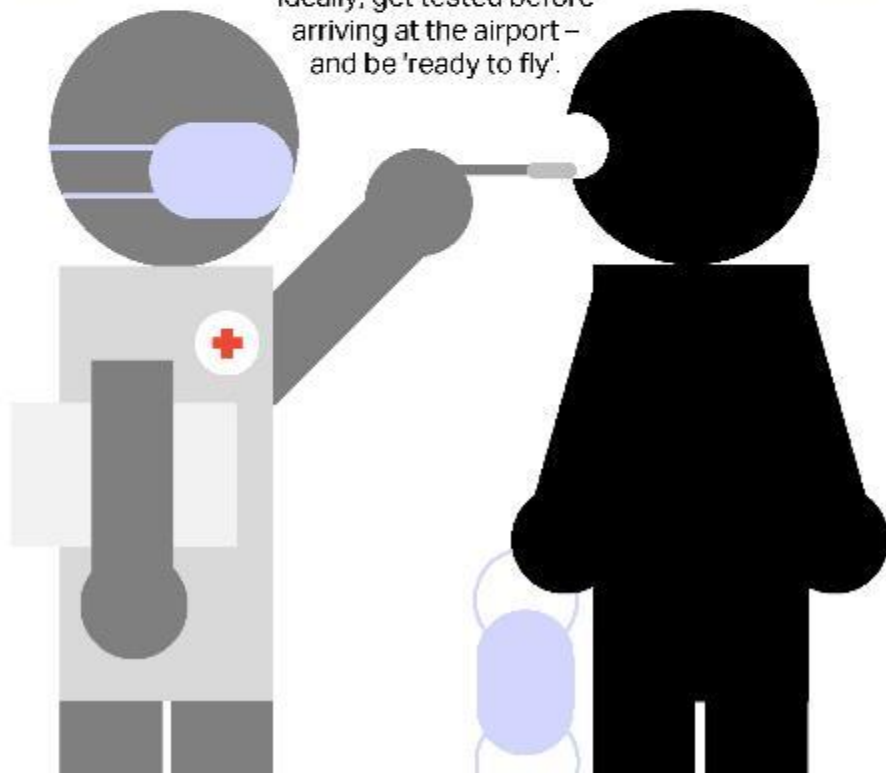
\*meaning the technology for rapid point-of-care Polymerized Chain Reaction (PCR) testing

**Scale** ✓  
Testing capacities of several 100s of tests per hour if testing is required at the airport.

>100s  
per hour

## Ready to fly

Ideally, get tested before arriving at the airport – and be 'ready to fly'.



## Cost

IATA supports the World Health Organization (WHO) International Health Regulations which require governments to bear the costs of mandatory health testing.



**Speed** ✓  
Results should be delivered quickly, within an hour.

within  
1 hour

## Responsibility

Is on governments to enact mutually-agreed standards, and on passengers to change their travel plans if testing positive.





# How good is cabin air?

The modern cabin environment offers a low risk of transmission, for a number of reasons: **passengers face the same direction, seatbacks act as barriers, air flow is top to bottom**, but is also very clean...

## 2-3 mins.

Cabin air is fully renewed about every 2-3 minutes

Hospitals ≈ 10 minutes  
Offices ≈ 20 minutes.

## 99.97%

overall removal efficiency rating

when tested using a DOP challenge or **99.99%** when tested with a sodium flame challenge.

## 50/50

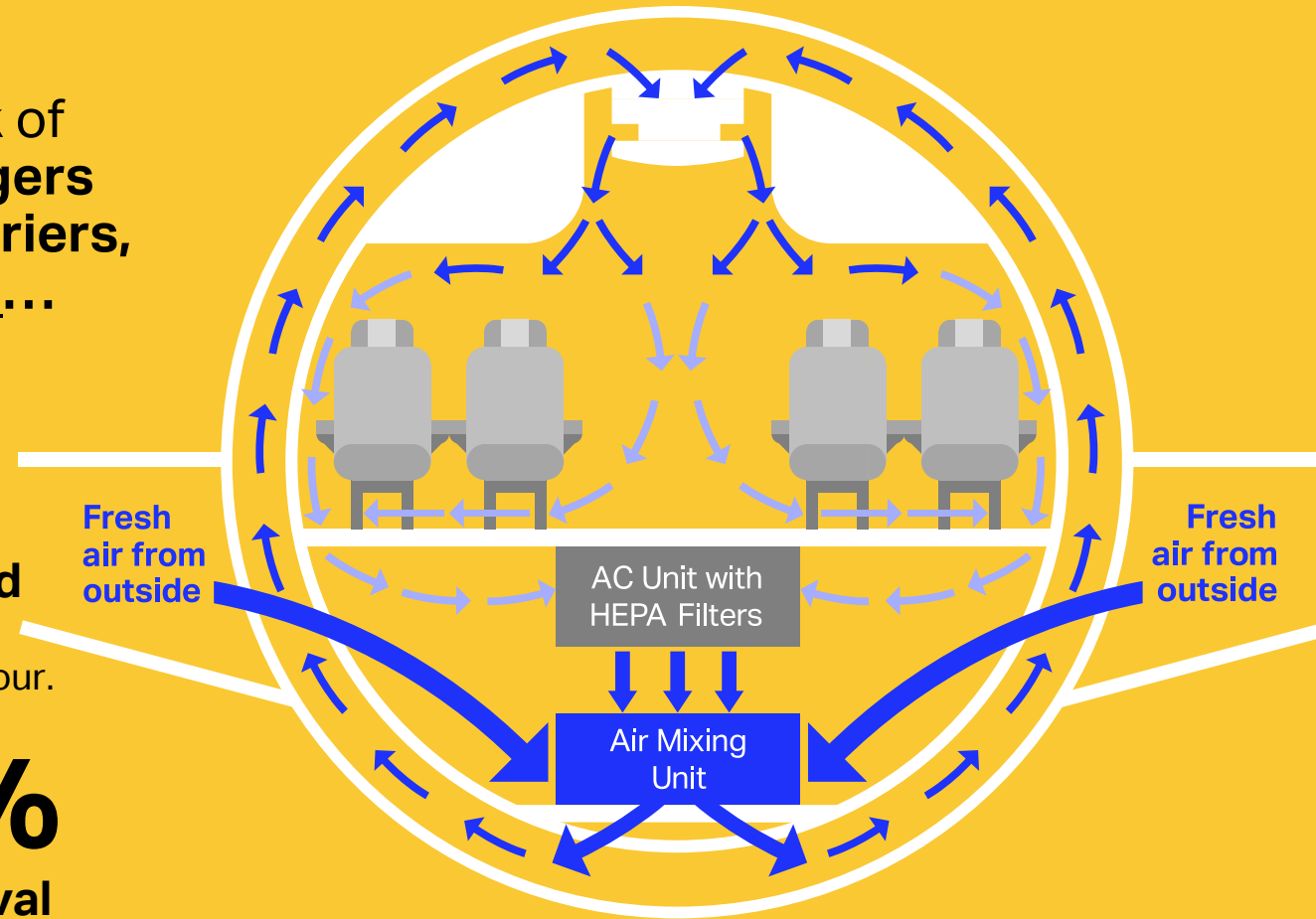
Mix of HEPA-filtered and fresh air onboard

And this is completely changed 20-30 times per hour.

## 99.993%

bacteria/virus removal efficiency rate

Including SARS, which is similar to COVID-19, according to independent testing.



HEPA filters perform as well as hospital theatres and industrial clean rooms.



# How well does **cabin air** compare?

Ventilation Air Rate (VAR) is a standard measure for the exchange of air in a given space – office, shopping mall, airplane...

**Here's how an airplane's Ventilation Air Rate compares:**

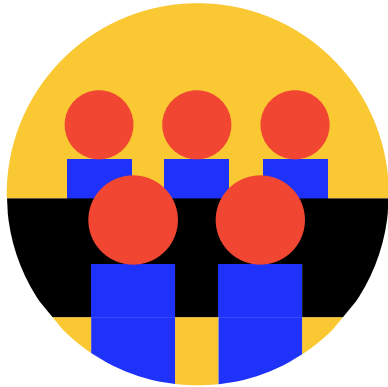
**x2**

Better than a  
**classroom**



**x3**

Better than a  
**conference room**



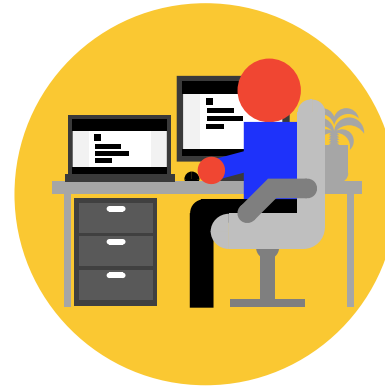
**x8**

Better than a **mall**  
or **supermarket**



**x12**

Better than an  
**office space**



Comparison based on data from ANSI/ASHRAE Standard 62.1 – Ventilation for Acceptable Indoor Air Quality (2019) and an aircraft operation with the max certificated number of passengers.



**Modern jet aircraft  
are also fitted with  
HEPA filters**

**99.993%**

**bacteria/virus removal  
efficiency rate**

Including SARS, which is similar to COVID-19,  
according to independent testing.

**50/50**

**Mix of HEPA-filtered / fresh air  
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