Coronavirus (COVID-19): safer air travel guidance for passengers

How to travel safely in airports and on aircraft during the coronavirus (COVID-19) outbreak.

Contents

1. Travel safely during the coronavirus outbreak

You can help control coronavirus (COVID-19) and travel safely by:

- avoiding the busiest times and routes
- keeping your distance when you travel (2 metres apart where possible)
- washing or sanitising your hands regularly

You should **not** travel if you:

- are experiencing any coronavirus symptoms or have in the last 7 days
- are self-isolating as a result of coronavirus symptoms
- are sharing a household with somebody who has experienced coronavirus symptoms in the last 14 days
- have been told to self-isolate as a result of having been in close contact with someone who has been confirmed to have coronavirus in the last 14 days

If you have any symptoms of coronavirus you should self-isolate at home and arrange to have a test to see if you have COVID-19.

If anyone in your household has symptoms of coronavirus you should self-isolate.

2. Social distancing

The risk of transmission increases the closer you are to another person with coronavirus and the longer you spend in close contact. Wherever possible and practical, you should:

- keep 2 metres away from people outside your household
- minimise the time you spend near other people

3. Hand washing

Washing your hands is one of the most effective ways to reduce the risk of coronavirus transmission.

You should:

- wash your hands regularly with soap and water for at least 20 seconds, particularly after touching surfaces, for example luggage trolley handles, self-service check-in and security trays
- use hand sanitiser if hand washing facilities are not available
- be aware of the surfaces you touch
- be careful not to touch your face, mouth or eyes
- cover your mouth and nose with a tissue or your elbow when coughing or sneezing

4. Face coverings

You must wear a face covering when travelling from Gibraltar International Airport and possibly onboard aircraft, depending on the policy being followed by the airline.

Some people may not be able to wear a face covering. For example, children under the age of 3, people with breathing difficulties and people whose disabilities makes it difficult for them to wear a face covering.

You should bring your own face covering for use throughout your journey. Some Airport Retail Outlets may have PPE available but you are still advised to bring spare face coverings for longer journeys and plastic bags to store used face coverings. If you need to discard any of these, this should only be done so in appropriate disposal containers and not the standard litter bins.

You should remove your face covering if asked to do so by police, border control (immigration/ customs or airport security) for the purposes of identification.

It is important to use face coverings properly. Wash your hands before putting them on and after taking them off and make sure that you know the proper procedure for doing this safely. Store face coverings hygienically when not in use.

Check your airline's requirements before you travel. If you do not have a face covering some airlines may stop you from boarding, if wearing a face covering is part of their conditions of carriage.

5. Before you fly

Before booking a flight, understand the public health requirements of your destination country, and read any relevant guidance:

- https://www.gov.uk/foreign-travel-advice

Where possible, your airline will inform you on measures to minimise transmission of coronavirus.

Find out from your airline what in-flight food and drink is available and plan for this. Airside retail and catering concessions will be open although there may be a limit on what is available.

Remember that the restrictions on liquids, aerosols and gels at security are still in place and any container larger than 100 ml will not be allowed through and you must consider this should you wish to bring drinks or hand sanitiser gels with you.

In line with other medical conditions, airlines have the right to refuse travel to anyone they believe is not fit to fly.

6. Online check-in

Where possible, check-in online to avoid face-to-face contact at the airport.

You are strongly encouraged to check in baggage to the aircraft hold and minimise any hand baggage. This will speed up boarding and disembarking and minimise the risk of transmission.

7. Arriving at the airport

Enter the airport on your own, unless you are flying with members of your household. Non-passengers should only enter the airport where needed. For example, accompanying a passenger requiring assistance, such as a disabled person or an unaccompanied child.

Treat staff and other passengers with respect.

Follow instructions from airport and airline staff, which may include:

- where to sit
- how to queue at check-in, security or when boarding the aircraft
- instructions on screens, barriers or floor markings
- requests to move to less busy areas

8. At check-in

Where possible, avoid touching surfaces in the airport. Wash your hands for at least 20 seconds after using self-service check-in, luggage trollies and other frequently touched surfaces.

9. At the security checkpoint

Follow advice in the airport to prepare for security checks.

10. At the departure lounge/ terminal airside area/ arrival areas

Avoid walking around the airport and mixing with people that you do not normally meet.

In shops at the airport, follow social distancing measures and, where possible, pay by contactless card.

11. On board the aircraft

Measures to control coronavirus transmission will depend on:

- the technical features of your aircraft
- any specific requirements of your destination
- the individual risk controls identified by your airline

Your airline will advise you on measures in place for your flight.

During the flight, you should:

- remain seated as much as possible
- follow instructions and guidance from crew
- use contactless payment where possible
- be aware there is likely to be a reduced food and drink service
- make the cabin crew aware if you become ill