Brownsville South Padre Island International Airport
Coronavirus Report
March 17, 2020

Following Mayor Trey Mendez's disaster declaration, the Brownsville South Padre Island International Airport (BRO) is taking precautions to prevent the spread of illnesses like the COVID-19 and protect its passengers and employees. Starting immediately, BRO will limit access into the terminal building to ticketed passengers only. We have coordinated with the Brownsville Police Department for additional security at the airport to assist with managing traffic and passengers.

In addition to normal cleaning procedures, the airport has coordinated with our contracted janitorial service to provide additional cleaning in frequently touched areas and on all hard surfaces, seats and floors. They have incorporated anti-bacterial supplies for the floor care as well as for the soap dispensers in the bathrooms.

While Brownsville South Padre Island International Airport (BRO) is not a gateway airport for non-stop arrivals from countries that are hard hit by the Coronavirus, the information below can help you travel to BRO in a safer way.

Transportation Security Administration:

TSA has taken additional measures at our security checkpoints:

- TSA authorized frontline personnel whose security screening tasks require them to routinely come into close contact with the traveling public can wear surgical masks if they choose to do so. In addition, all of our officers are being encouraged to regularly wash their hands and wear nitrile gloves while conducting screening operations.

- TSA will continue to follow guidance issued by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and the Occupational Safety and Health Administration regarding workforce protection. We have also put up CDC notices in TSA areas for public information regarding COVID-19.

- TSA has issued guidance on how to conduct routine cleaning and disinfecting of frequently touched surfaces and security screening equipment at the TSA security

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checkpoint. Employees are encouraged to wash their hands after cleaning and after removing their gloves. Tables and bins are cleaned and disinfected twice daily.

- Bins in use in the security checkpoint are like any other piece of public property and should be treated as such. With hundreds of travelers coming through an airport security checkpoint each hour, the bins are a common use item. TSA asks that you do not place personal items such as wallets, keys or phone in a bin. Instead, secure them in carry-on property to be screened through the X-ray system.

- As a reminder, travelers are permitted to bring individually-packaged alcohol or anti-bacterial wipes in carry-on or checked luggage. Jumbo containers of hand wipes are also allowed in carry-on or checked luggage. Liquid hand sanitizers also are permitted in carry-on luggage.

US Customs and Border Protection

As U.S. Customs and Border Protection process general aviation, their computer system will notify them if passengers have traveled through an at-risk country. If they have travelled through one of the restricted countries, the agent on duty will contact their operations center for assistance and further guidance.

In an effort to combat the coronavirus pandemic, Vice President Mike Pence announced that travel from the United Kingdom (UK) and Ireland would be suspended for most travelers as of midnight on Monday, March 16. The same exclusions that are part of the already existing European travel restrictions, which went into effect on Friday, March 13, will also apply to the UK and Ireland.

As a reminder, these restrictions apply to most foreign nationals; not U.S. citizens, legal permanent residents, their immediate family members, and other individuals that are identified in the suspension of entry travel proclamation. Americans returning from the UK and Ireland will be required to travel through 13 airports for an enhanced screening process.

Americans returning from the affected countries will now be required to travel through 13 airports:

- Boston-Logan International Airport (BOS), Massachusetts
- Chicago O'Hare International Airport (ORD), Illinois
- Dallas/Fort Worth International Airport (DFW), Texas
- Detroit Metropolitan Airport (DTW), Michigan
- Daniel K. Inouye International Airport (HNL), Hawaii
- Hartsfield-Jackson Atlanta International Airport (ATL), Georgia
- John F. Kennedy International Airport (JFK), New York
- Los Angeles International Airport, (LAX), California

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- Miami International Airport (MIA), Florida
- Newark Liberty International Airport (EWR), New Jersey
- San Francisco International Airport (SFO), California
- Seattle-Tacoma International Airport (SEA), Washington
- Washington-Dulles International Airport (IAD), Virginia

Brownsville South Padre Island International Airport is classified as a destination airport; therefore, all of our passenger will be traveling through one or more of the above hubs prior to arriving into Brownsville.

As a reminder, passengers are encouraged to follow the CDC's guidance for preventing the spread of COVID-19. These guidelines include:

- Avoid close contact with people who are sick.
- Avoid touching your eyes, nose, and mouth.
- Cover your cough or sneeze with a tissue, then throw the tissue in the trash.
- Wash your hands often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds, especially after going to the bathroom; before eating; and after blowing your nose, coughing, or sneezing.
- Anyone who recently traveled to a place experiencing COVID-19 transmission and begins to feel sick, is advised to stay home and call their doctor immediately.

Last but not least, BRO is committed to the health and safety of our employees. The airport will conduct conference calls and avoid in-person meetings, especially if anticipating a large audience.

This is a fluid and dynamic situation and strongly recommend everyone to continue checking the official communications form Government Agencies (CDC, Public Health, and World Health Organization), as well as verified and trusted sources of news.

We thank you for your preference.

Sincerely,

BRO Airport Administration

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