



**Association of Professional  
Flight Attendants**

Representing the Flight Attendants of American Airlines

April 29, 2020

Matthew J. O'Shea  
City Council Aviation Committee Chair  
10400 South Western Avenue  
Chicago, IL 60643  
Ward19@cityofchicago.org

Jamie Rhee  
Commissioner, Chicago Department of Aviation  
(CDA)  
10,000 West O'Hare Ave  
Chicago, IL 60666

Dear Mr. O'Shea and Ms. Rhee:

We are writing you on behalf of the Association of Professional Flight Attendants (APFA), the independent union representing more than 27,000 American Airlines Flight Attendants, of whom more than 1700 are based in Chicago.

While walking through the Chicago O'Hare airport, our members are reporting a widespread lack of masks among passengers. As you know, the Illinois Department of Public Health has issued public guidance on the use of masks, recommending that all Illinois residents wear a cloth mask when in public spaces. More recently, Governor Pritzker issued the order requiring all residents to wear masks in public beginning on May 1<sup>st</sup>. How do your airports intend to enforce this rule beginning on May 1<sup>st</sup>?

This letter comes to you as airlines are beginning to take overdue steps to protect the health and safety of passengers and crew alike. American Airlines has announced that it will require Flight Attendants to wear masks on the aircraft and begin to provision masks for passengers. Meanwhile, JetBlue has announced that it will soon require all passengers to also wear masks during flight. However, the Illinois airports are under your authority, and any mask worn on planes will do little good if Flight Attendants and passengers come in contact with unmasked travelers throughout the airport complex.

Please advise us on what steps the Chicago Department of Aviation is taking to ensure airports are as safe as possible for essential aviation workers like Flight Attendants. We would be happy to answer any questions and participate in discussions on how to ensure the aviation community works together to ensure health and safety for crew and passengers alike.

Sincerely,

Julie Hedrick  
APFA National President

Susan Wroble  
APFA Chicago Base President

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