ready
for every
journey

COVID-19 Recovery Recommendations

Ensuring the health, safety, and security of the travelling public and airport workers is always an airport's top priority. As such, North American airports responded quickly to help contain the spread of COVID-19. Airports continue to take aggressive steps to protect everyone traveling through their facilities and their employees. >>

ACI-NA established the Airport Industry Recovery Advisory Panel to develop recommended plans, processes, procedures, and infrastructure investments to address the public health concerns associated with airport operations during and following the COVID-19 pandemic. The immedate, medium and long-term recommendations and priorities outlined below are product of the ongoing work being conducted by the advisory panel and ACI-NA's committees.

Immediate Top Priorities and Recommendations

The advisory panel has identified 42 priorities and recommendations for immediate implementation in order to recover the previous level of service and adapt to the public health expectations of passengers and employees. Top priorities and recommendations include:

Legislative and Policy Action

Request Additional Airport Financial Relief *(U.S. Recommendation)*

Request the Government of Canada Eliminate Payments by National Airport System Airports, or Extend the Current Waiver *(Canadian Recommendation)*

Extend Interest-Free Loans to Airports *(Canadian Recommendation)*

Provide Loan/Bond Guarantees or Preferred Payments to Lenders *(Canadian Recommendation)*

Increase Small Airport Funding *(Canadian Recommendation)*

Supplemental funding for CBP Staffing *(U.S. Recommendation)*

Ensure TSA Maintains Adequate Staffing Levels at Screening Checkpoints *(U.S. Recommendation)*

Regulatory Efforts

Accelerate Deployment of Contactless Technologies for International Arrivals

Removal of Restriction of Air Service to Designated Screening Airports

Collaboration on Development of International Travel Resumption Strategic Plan

Coordinate International Arrivals Cleaning and Disinfection Protocols

Reconfigure Security Checkpoints to Maximize Social/Physical Distancing

Modify Queuing at Security Checkpoints to Provide Space for Social/Physical Distancing

Modify Regulatory Requirements for Access Control and Badging

Collaboration on International Arrival Facility Modifications

Airport Actions and Good Practices

Update Airport Industrial Hygiene Program

Develop Revised Waste Management Strategy Due to COVID-19 Impacts

Develop Plan to Promote Airport Workforce Safety

Coordinate Plexiglass Barrier Installation for Consistency Throughout the Airport

Improve Coverage for Insurable, Transferrable, and Retained Risk Exposures

Compile Guidelines for Queuing Space Requirements and Managing Terminal Capacity

Compile Guidance for Appropriate Configuration of Airport HVAC Systems

Medium-Term Priorities and Recommendations

Financial Guidance for Budget Cuts: ACI-NA estimates airports face at least $23 billion in operating losses as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic.

Queueing: Current queuing processes throughout the passenger journey do not meet current public health guidance on physical distancing.

Pandemic Recovery Insurance Act *(PRIA, U.S. Recommendation)***:** Similar to the Terrorism Risk Insurance Act, PRIA would require insurance companies to provide pandemic coverage while the government maintains marketplace stability and shares the burdern in covering losses from health emergencies.

Business Continuity Management *(BCM)***:** BCM should address how airports are planning for continuity of operations, including but not limited to workforce reduction, increased cyber exposure, financial impacts of business interruption, reduction in vendor support, and reduction in infrastructure.

Long-Term Priorities and Recommendations

Installation of Biometric and Contactless Technology: ACI-NA continues to work with stakeholders and regulators to encourage the implementation of biometric and contactless technology to increase efficiency and reduce passenger touchpoints.

Increase the Federal Limit on Passenger Facility Charges *(U.S. Recommendation)***:** Though the COVID-19 pandemic has drastically reduced air travel, facility expansion is still necessary to meet guidelines on physical distancing and other potential public health measures.

Climate Change Adaption: In the wake of COVID-19, climate action may be needed to further rebuild public trust. In addition, climate action is increasingly important for federal funding grants and to access investment funding.

Data Sharing and Interoperability: Airport adaptations to increase data sharing in response to the COVID-19 pandemic should focus on interoperability whenever possible.

Potential Health Screening Measures: As the Government of Canada begins to implement public health screening (temperature checks) and though the United States Government has not yet decided to do so, if it should, ACI-NA will continue to work with federal agencies to determine the direction they may be taking. In addition, state/provincial and local health departments are also considering implementation of health screening measures at airports.

Enterprise Risk Management *(ERM)***:** ERM should be embedded in the decision-making processes from a strategic and tactical perspective, as airports prepare for a "new normal."