



# COVID-19 IMPACTS

While traditional crisis responses are regionally based on local issues such as weather, economic or other issues, COVID-19 is something new problem where the impact has global implications. One goal of the AIRFC is to share the collective experiences of all members and airports around the world.

IFMA AIRFC held an open forum on [3/25](#) and on [3/31](#) to allow the sharing of impacts and ideas. Please click on the dates to listen.

The third session will be on April 8th at 1:00 PM CST and will include a janitorial expert to discuss disinfection.

[Register Here](#)

More COVID-19 stories on page 4-8

## Spring 2020 AIRFC Conference



The value of the AIRFC is our ability to learn from each other, share ideas and spark debate and would like to thank the participants to the Spring 2020 AIRFC Spring meeting in Houston and a special thanks to the Houston team for a great conference.

Presentations are posted at <https://airport.ifma.org/> and there are individual links on page 3.

### Topics

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because sharing  
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# Message From the President

Greetings Fellow Airport Council Members:

My goodness what a difference a month makes! Last month we all enjoyed one of the most successful Spring Airport Conferences ever. We had over 70 attendees participate in an extraordinary gathering of friends and colleagues. Most of us had plenty to celebrate, a successful 2019 that brought fiscal and infrastructural growth to our airports the likes of which we'd never seen. At that point Coronavirus was a new concept; a curious illness in China with only a handful of cases in the United States. None of us even imagined what lurked ahead or the chaos this microscopic organism would invoke on society worldwide!

As I sit here today the CDC reports there have been 140,904 cases discovered in the U.S. with 2,405 deaths. The World Health Organization has reported 634,813 worldwide cases resulting in 29,891 deaths. These are grim numbers that have made the entire planet stop and take notice of this dreaded disease and the havoc it wreaks upon its victims. We, as citizens, have resorted to "social distancing" to "slow the curve" of the illness' growth, as our nation's health system and hospitals struggle to respond to this world pandemic that no one ever saw coming. The scale of the situation is unprecedented and we still can't grasp the potential scope with certainty.

As airport professionals the impacts are real; our passenger carriers have been heavily affected. United announced a 60% reduction in flight schedules, Delta announced 70% system wide, American has reduced international flights by 75%. The impact has spared no one.

Luckily the Federal Government has stepped up and approved a \$2 Trillion economic package that is targeted to help stabilize the U.S. economy. Airports have been promised \$10 Billion within the package which we all know isn't enough but it's something, so we're not complaining!

These are clearly challenging times but I urge you to "keep the faith", stay safe, protect your families, and look out for your colleagues at work by staying home if you're sick and social distancing if you have to be at work since many of us continue to be essential and critical to keeping our airports running. I have full confidence that the great medical minds of our healthcare system WILL FIND A CURE FOR THIS ILLNESS. And once they do things will slowly return to normal and your airports will need you more than ever as they ramp the business back to typical volume.

Until then I wish you good health, stamina and continued mental fortitude... we're all going to need it.

Stay Safe

*John*

John Means, CFM, CM, FE, SSBB, MBA





**IAH/HOU**

# 2020 Spring Conference Presentations



**IAH/HOU**



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**SEA**



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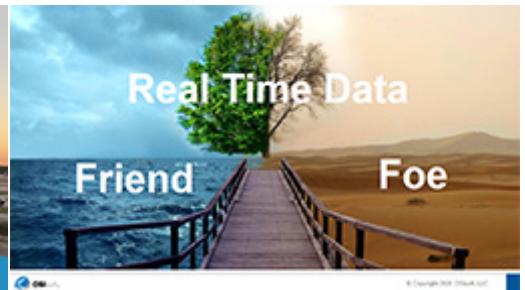
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# COVID-19 Pandemic

Our professional and personal lives are consumed by the COVID-19 pandemic and I would like to share some of the thoughts and discussions that have been happening including from the IFMA AIRFC Open Forum discussion on March 25th. After listening to the open forum and then reading dozens of articles I believe there is a lot to cover and discuss, but I want to focus on the human aspect of the situation.

First, our airport personal are on the front lines battling this invisible enemy. While we are not the first responders like medical personnel, police, and fire, we are in a category I would argue that has not been assigned the proper classification. You are critical service responders and you do put yourselves at risk to ensure necessary services are provided to the public that supports not just economic activity but the movement of people and goods that are supporting the people in need.

On the IFMA AIRFC call the primary focus of the discussion was "what are you doing today?" There was a significant overlap as many airports are following best practices to maintain a clean and safe environment for employees and passengers. One of the best practices that I heard that goes to the human aspect is communications. This was one response that was not as widespread in its adoption for all the airports on the call. These are difficult times and our most valuable tool is open communications not only to reinsure the traveling public but to our front line employees. I was reading one of the articles that are listed in the following pages on an airplane cabin cleaner and her refusal to clean a plane that had just landed from China. She cried from fear and even with the threat of termination, she refused. The first tool to help alleviate fear is to communicate with our employees the risks and our responses and to educate them to feel comfortable in doing their job the correct way to protect themselves and their co-workers.

Second, we also need to understand the mental health aspect of this situation. These team members are going through a range of emotions from the fear of their work environment to the fear of potential job loss and financial struggles and possibly the health concerns of their family and friends. They are doing their best to balance their responsibility to the airport, having to home school their children, or keeping distance from their family, friends and support structure.

So while we are focused on reduced passenger traffic and cleaning we should not forget about our most valuable assets, our people. I want to solicit you to share any of your communication tools and how you are handling your teams.

## COVID-19 Resources

[John Hopkins University COVID Dashboard](#)

[IFMA Coronavirus Preparedness Resource Center](#)

[IFMA Corporate Facilities Council - Webinar](#)

[AAAE - Pandemic Planning Resources](#)

[ACI- Community Health Forum](#)

[CDC - COVID-19](#)

[LAX Public Communication on COVID-19](#)

# COVID-19 In the News

## Travelers shocked by barebones coronavirus screening at US airports

Air travelers say they have been shocked by the bare-bones screening procedures at American airports amid the coronavirus pandemic.

"I said I was coming from Vietnam via Tokyo and [the customs agent] said, 'Welcome back,' and that was it," Aneel Makhani, 38, a marketing professional from Brooklyn who landed at JFK Airport on Sunday, told The Post. [Article](#)



## 1,200 Airport Workers in N.Y.C. Area Abruptly Laid Off With No Severance

More than 1,200 of these laid-off workers were employed in restaurants and stores operated by OTG at La Guardia, Kennedy International and Newark Liberty International airports, according to the union that represents them, Unite Here Local 100. OTG said the closings and layoffs were necessary because of the travel restrictions that had virtually grounded airlines. One of its senior executives is Lawrence Schwartz, a close ally of Gov. Andrew M. Cuomo. [Article](#)



## Atlanta airport 'burning cash' during coronavirus pandemic...

The top official at Hartsfield-Jackson says the airport is "burning cash" due to the decline in air travel nationwide. That falloff in traffic is directly related to the fears about the COVID-19 pandemic. "Our losses, if you ask me, our burn rate is about 50 to 60 percent," Selden said. Councilman Antonio Brown wanted to know if it would be cheaper to temporarily close the airport than continue seeing losses. "Whether we have to close a building or make other adjustments," the general manager said, "our runways will stay open". [Article](#)



## Yeager Airport working through continuity plan ...

Keller presented the board with a "worst-case scenario" put together by the finance department that included an 85 percent reduction in airline flights, GA flights and military flights that includes variables such as landing fees, fuel sales, parking, and rental car numbers.

That scenario had the airport losing between \$600,000 and \$650,000 in revenue per month. [Article](#)



## Bay Area airport workers at risk of coronavirus face looming layoffs

As the new coronavirus devastates the airline industry, workers at Bay Area airports exposed to health risks are enduring mass layoffs as a potential U.S. travel shutdown looms. At San Francisco International Airport, between 800 and 900 workers soon will be laid off, SEIU United Services Workers West reported. Around 250 airline catering workers were already let go, Unite Here Local 2 Union said.

Some workers are facing homelessness and could lose health care at a critical time, and unions are preparing to fight for compensation as airlines seek bailouts. [Article](#)



# COVID-19 In the News

## World's busiest airport shuts runway to create parking space for planes

Airports are shutting runways to create extra space to park planes as the coronavirus pandemic continues to severely reduce the number of flights globally. Atlanta's Hartsfield-Jackson International Airport, the world's busiest airport, has fully shut one runway, with reports that planes are being parked on two others as well, according to Simple Flying. [Article](#)



## Revenue plummets, planes grounded at Alabama airports

The coronavirus pandemic has placed many passenger airliners around the world, including Alabama, in a less than lofty position: on the ground. Now airports around the state are enduring a precipitous drop in revenue and enplanements. It's been nearly 19 years since the world last saw the unsettling images of parked commercial airplanes lining airports around the globe. That occurred after the 9/11 terrorism attacks on the United States, resulting in all aircraft being grounded for several days.

[Article](#)



## Coronavirus Florida: National Guard to airports for screenings, but PBIA

Travelers from coronavirus hot spots in the New York Tri-state area will not be screened at Palm Beach International Airport for the time-being as state officials focus on major hubs such as Fort Lauderdale and Miami. Alexander Shaw, a spokesman for the Florida Department of Health in Palm Beach County, said that the West Palm Beach airport is not on a list that came out of Gov. Ron DeSantis' executive order Monday. The order requires all passengers arriving in Florida on flights from New York, New Jersey and Connecticut to self-quarantine for 14 days. [Article](#)



## One of London's airports will shut down for at least a month as the coronavirus

London City Airport will suspend all of its operations beginning Wednesday evening, as the ongoing coronavirus crisis continues to lead to plummeting travel demand. The shutdown is scheduled to last through the end of April.

The airport announced the shutdown in a statement on Wednesday, saying all commercial and private flights will be paused throughout it. The closure timeline will be kept "under review," it said. [Article](#)



## Scrubbing up: airport hand hygiene could slow pandemics

Airports as super-spreaders

So why exactly are airports such effective facilitators for the spread of disease-causing pathogens? Well, between the mixing of individuals from around the world, the close proximity of areas like security and a lack of focus on personal hygiene, there are plenty of factors to choose from. And of course, all of those factors are exponentially more significant for the world's busiest aviation hubs. [Article](#)





# COVID-19 In the News

## The stark differences in coronavirus screening at airports in Shanghai and Washington, DC

It's been fascinating to hear travelers' stories about their different experiences as they arrive at various airports around the world. Some airports, including many in China, are meticulously screening passengers before even letting them on flights, and as they arrive back into the country. At airports in the United States, the "welcome home" has ranged from absolutely no questions asked about recent travel ... [Article](#)



## Airports in the U.S. Struggle to Cope With the Crowds

Chicago's O'Hare International Airport was among those overwhelmed over the weekend with passengers, including many returning from Europe, who faced new screening measures hastily announced last week by the White House.

The throngs of anxious travelers were a stark contrast to the increasingly loud calls for people to practice "social distancing" as a way to get ahead of the spread of the coronavirus and buy time for fragile health care systems. [Article](#)



## Cleveland Hopkins airport parking is now free

All airport-owned lots — including the Red, Blue and Orange lots, plus the Smart Parking Garage — are included. The Brown lot is currently closed.

An airport official said the move was made to limit interaction between the public and airport personnel during the coronavirus pandemic. It was also done in an effort to ease the stress of travelers on their way home, according to the official. [Article](#)



## Airport Workers Fear They're Unprotected From The Coronavirus

After passengers filed off a flight from China five weeks ago, cabin cleaners at the Los Angeles International Airport were sent in to clean the plane. One of the workers, fearing she might contract the coronavirus, refused.

"I was scared to death," said Barbara Gomez of Inglewood, Calif. "I start crying." Gomez said her boss told her that if she didn't board the plane, her job would be on the line. Still, she refused. [Article](#)



## American Airlines baggage handler at DFW Airport diagnosed with COVID-19

An American Airlines baggage handler at DFW International Airport left work this week after being diagnosed with COVID-19, raising the total to three company employees now out with the fast-spreading virus.

The baggage handler has not worked in several days and notified the Fort Worth-based airline of the diagnosis this week, according to a source close to the company. [Article](#)







**Spring 2020  
IFMA AIRFC  
Council Meeting  
Houston, TX**







**It is a serious time, but just take a break to have a laugh.**

**IF A DIARRHEA VIRUS HIT US RIGHT NOW, DO YOU THINK PEOPLE WOULD BUY UP ALL THE NASAL SPRAY?**

Why are the annoying servants staying in my home all day now?



Looking at the map for some weekend travel ideas



**COMING THIS SUMMER...**



**TO A YARD SALE NEAR YOU.**

Coffee filters can be used as toilet paper, but it does change the taste of the coffee.

**"It's for your own good. You've got to stop touching your face."**



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