

Governments to consider aviation workers as essential for vaccination

The International Air Transport Association (IATA) has renewed its call on governments to ensure that employees in the aviation sector are considered as essential workers during the impending Covid-19 vaccine campaign, once health care workers and vulnerable groups have been protected.



Sunyu Kim via [Pixabay](#)

IATA's 76th Annual General Meeting (AGM) had agreed upon adopting a resolution to this effect.

"We are not asking for aviation workers to be on top of the list, but we need governments to ensure that transportation workers are considered as essential when vaccine roll-out plans are developed.

"The transportation of the Covid-19 vaccines has already begun, and as calculations show, it will require the equivalent of 8,000 Boeing 747 freighter aircraft for global distribution. It is therefore essential that we have the qualified workforce in place to ensure a functioning logistics chain," said Alexandre de Juniac, IATA's director general and CEO.

IATA's call is aligned with the proposed Roadmap for Prioritising Uses of Covid-19 Vaccines by the World Health Organisation's Strategic Advisory Group of Experts on Immunisation (Sage). This recommends priority populations for vaccination based on the respective epidemiologic situation and vaccine supply scenarios. Within this framework, Sage has included transportation workers alongside other essential sectors outside health and education sectors including the police, for example.

The AGM also reiterated the vital role of air transport in facilitating the global response to the pandemic, including the timely distribution of medicines, testing kits, protective equipment and eventually vaccines around the world.

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