Travel Industry Update
June 4, 2020

Delta

- Airline will block middle seats through September.
- The Atlanta-based carrier will limit the number of travelers on its planes at 60% of economy seats, 50% of first class seats and 75% of Delta One suites through Sept. 30.
- Airline will test all employees for COVID-19 through a partnership with Mayo Clinic and Quest Diagnostics.

American Airlines plans to fly 55% of its normal schedule in July

- American Airlines said it plans to fly 55% of its domestic schedule in July, up dramatically from May when the airline flew 20% of its schedule from a year earlier.
- American is increasing flights at a more aggressive pace than its competitor United, which is ramping up its July schedule to 25% of what it flew during the same month in 2019.

US blocking Chinese airlines in response to China barring Delta and United

- U.S. authorities will bar Chinese airlines from serving the United States amid a growing spat over plans by Delta Air Lines and United Airlines to resume flights to China.
- In an order issued Wednesday morning, the Department of Transportation said Chinese passenger carriers will be barred from serving the U.S. after June 16. Air China, China Eastern Airlines, China Southern Airlines and Xiamen Airlines are currently operating limited flights, while Sichuan Airlines plans to resume service on June 12 and Hainan Airlines on July 1.

Emirates adds 16 destinations to its schedule

- Emirates is adding 16 more destinations to its network as it simultaneously resumes connecting flights through its Dubai hub.
- Emirates today announced more flights that will operate from June 15th.

Virgin Atlantic to restart 5 routes in July

- On July 20th, the British carrier will launch its first two routes in both directions from London. The first flight will head east to Hong Kong, with another heading west to Orlando.
- On July 21st, the airline’s other three routes will be relaunched. This will see aircraft flying to Shanghai, New York (JFK), and Los Angeles.
• The airline hasn’t operated passenger flights since they were suspended in late April.

**Travel Industry Lauds Passage of Paycheck Protection Program Reform Bill**

• The U.S. Senate passed the Paycheck Protection Program (PPP) Flexibility Act on Wednesday.
• The reform bill provides business owners with additional flexibility and more time to utilize loan money and still be forgiven under the PPP established to provide economic relief in the wake of the COVID-19 pandemic.
• The U.S. Travel Association also wasted no time praising the decision, calling it an "important step."
• "The PPP changes passed by both chambers are another important step in providing relief to small businesses that otherwise will not survive until the economic recovery phase," added U.S. Travel's Executive Vice President of Public Affairs and Policy Tori Emerson Barnes. "The modification to the portion of funds that can be used for non-payroll expenses is especially crucial to travel-related small businesses, which have comparatively high capital overhead but virtually zero incoming revenue because of the necessary measures in place to stem the spread of the pandemic."
• U.S. Travel still believes that there’s more work to be done to ensure a successful recovery. The organization is encouraging officials to extend PPP eligibility to non-profit and quasi-governmental entities responsible for driving local and regional economic development.

**CDC finalizing new grading system for cruise ships; crews still waiting repatriation**

• Two and a half months after the cruise industry shut down, the U.S. CDC and the world’s largest cruise companies are nearly in agreement about how to limit COVID-19 outbreaks on ships while cruises remain banned.
• The CDC is nearing the end of its review of health and safety plans submitted in April by South Florida-based Carnival Corporation, Royal Caribbean Cruises Ltd., Norwegian Cruise Line Holdings, MSC Cruises, Disney Cruise Line, Bahamas Paradise Cruise Line and Virgin Voyages outlining how the companies will detect, prevent and mitigate the spread of the coronavirus at sea while cruises are stopped.
• CDC plans to publish the plans in the coming week, along with a scorecard for each ship operating in U.S. waters that reflects its level of infection.
• The ships will be graded on a color-coded system: green for no confirmed cases of COVID-19 or COVID-like illness for 28 days, yellow for one or more COVID-like illness cases pending confirmation, red for one or more cases of confirmed COVID-19 or COVID-like illness within the past 28 days.
• If the ship is designated green, commercial transportation for crew repatriation is allowed. More than 62,000 crew members are still waiting to go home.

**Caribbean**

• Jamaica will re-open for tourism on June 15.
• The reopening would make Jamaica the largest Caribbean destination to reopen its borders so far.
• Full list of when countries plan to re-open is available [here](#).