Travel Industry Update

July 2, 2020

Main TSA checkpoint closed at Atlanta airport because of coronavirus case

- The main security checkpoint at Hartsfield-Jackson Atlanta International Airport -- the world's busiest airport -- has been closed for cleaning after an employee there tested positive for the coronavirus, according to the Transportation Security Administration.
- TSA Spokesman Mark Howell said the Domestic Main checkpoint has reopened a few lanes as of Wednesday evening, but will "likely not fully open until tomorrow," following a deep clean.
- Howell said TSA expects to screen about 27,000 people at the airport on Thursday and Friday, which is about 50% more than it has seen recently. The agency is bringing in more employees to work over the holiday weekend because of the higher volumes.
- More than 860 TSA employees nationwide have tested positive for the coronavirus, including at least 29 at Atlanta's airport -- 28 of whom are screeners.

JetBlue Will Not Furlough Pilots Until 2021, Delta Announces Furloughs Beginning Oct. 1

- JetBlue’s Air Line Pilots Association Master Executive Council (MEC), a union that represents JetBlue’s pilots, has voted to approve a Letter of Agreement (LOA) with JetBlue that prevents JetBlue pilots from involuntary furloughs until May 1, 2021.
- Delta Air Lines sent messages to some of its employees to alert them that they would be temporarily furloughed on Oct. 1. In an email sent to an undisclosed number of pilots from Delta Vice President of Flight Operations Patrick Burns, recipients are told, “We regret to inform you that your position is anticipated to be affected [by mass furloughs resulting from overstaffing] and we anticipate that you will be furloughed on October 1.”
- Though the message also says that it is possible the furloughs “may be rescinded if necessary, to meet operational needs,” it does say that employees receiving the message should “plan accordingly and prepare as if you will be furloughed on October 1.”

American Airlines says it’s overstaffed by 20,000 employees for fall schedule

- American Airlines on Thursday told staff it has more than 20,000 employees it doesn’t need for its reduced fall schedule.
- American and other U.S. airlines are urging employees to take buyouts or early retirement options to reduce headcount before turning to involuntary measures like layoffs.
- “We currently anticipate having 20 to 30% — or more than 20,000 — more team members on payroll than we need to operate our schedule this fall,” CEO Doug Parker and President Robert Isom said in a staff note. “To be clear, this doesn’t mean 20,000 of
our team members will be furloughed in October, it simply means we still have to work to do to right-size our team for the airline we operate.”

**Hawaiian Airlines returns to Las Vegas, New York and 6 more US cities in August**

- Hawaiian Airlines plans to resume flying much of its North American route map in August when Hawaii is due to begin easing restrictions on arriving travelers put in place due to the coronavirus pandemic.
- The flights come back as Hawaii moves to allow visitors to enter the state with proof of a negative COVID-19 test beginning Aug. 1. Anyone without a negative test result must quarantine for 14 days.
- Hawaiian’s international flying remains grounded. The airline has postponed plans to resume flights to Japan, South Korea and Tahiti in July to at least Aug. 15, and has postponed a return to Australia and New Zealand to at least Sept. 30.

**British Airways will resume some long-haul flying from Gatwick in July**

- As of mid-July, British Airways will resume operating some long-haul flights from its base at Gatwick Airport. Since the peak of the coronavirus crisis, BA has been operating just out of its base at London Heathrow, opting to completely suspend operations from Gatwick.
- British Airways confirmed that it plans to restart “a small number of long-haul services from Gatwick in mid-July”, however, it didn’t make clear exactly which routes those will be.

**Qantas: No international flights for another year**

- Qantas has confirmed that it won’t fly internationally at all this year.
- The national flag carrier this week shed 6,000 jobs and released a three-phase plan out of the crisis which will see all its long-haul A380 aircraft parked in the Californian desert for at least three years, and 100 planes in total grounded for at least 12 months.
- International travel is not expected to begin again until next July, said CEO Alan Joyce.

**Virgin Atlantic Set To Receive An Additional £200m From Branson**

- Sir Richard Branson’s Virgin Group is to provide Virgin Atlantic with £200m ($248m) of immediate funding to help secure the future of the airline. In addition to the cash injection, according to Virgin insiders, an additional £400m ($496m) of support from shareholders has also been committed.
- The extra £400m of financing will be from Delta Airlines, a 49% shareholder in Virgin Atlantic. The Virgin Group, with 51%, is the majority shareholder. Delta had previously said that it wouldn’t be funding Virgin Atlantic as it prioritized its own future in the face of the coronavirus crisis.
- To ensure that Virgin Atlantic’s current shareholding structure doesn’t change, Delta’s commitment will probably be in the form of deferred payments for shared back-office and IT platforms and brand fees.
Alitalia resumes international flights from Milan, Linate to open on July 13

- Alitalia on Wednesday resumed international flights from Milan.
- The resumed flights will fly from Milan Malpensa airport to Amsterdam, Brussels, Paris and London.
- Milan city airport Linate, which before the health crisis was Alitalia's second-biggest airport after Rome's Fiumicino, will reopen on July 13.

Emirates to suspend Hong Kong transit services from July 2-15

- The news comes after Airport Authority Hong Kong (AAHK) introduced stricter penalties yesterday for airlines flying in passengers who are not allowed to enter their destination, saying that it could suspend transit services for carriers flying unauthorized passengers.
- “The airline concerned has to bear all the relevant cost arising from the mishandling. The airline is also responsible for returning the passengers without valid boarding passes to the port of origin immediately,” reads a statement from AAHK.
- The news comes after 11 Emirates passengers failed to transit through Hong Kong to mainland China with a connecting flight.

Tokyo Disney parks reopen after 4-month closure

- All of Disney's Asia parks have now officially reopened, with Tokyo Disney Resort welcoming visitors to its two theme parks from July 1.
- Masks required, reservations required, capacity limits in place.

Cruise Lines, Charter Cruises Start to Cancel Into 2021

- Celestyal Cruises became the first cruise line to cancel all sailings for the rest of this year, with a new start date of March 2021. The Greece-based line, which operates primarily in the Greek isles, put the decision down to uncertainty about travel into the European Union.
- StarVista, one of the larger music charter companies, has moved several of its popular cruises to 2022.
- Entertainment Cruise Productions (ECP) has canceled their jazz theme cruises originally scheduled for early 2021, and rescheduled them for 2022.