



भारतीय विमानपत्तन प्राधिकरण
AIRPORTS AUTHORITY OF INDIA

DIRECTORATE OF CERTIFICATION OF ATS PERSONNEL

RAJIV GANDHI BHAWAN, NEW DELHI-110003

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CAPC

CERTIFICATION OF ATS PERSONNEL CIRCULAR NO. 02 of 2022

**AEROMEDICAL DISPOSAL OF AIR TRAFFIC CONTROLLERS INFECTED WITH
COVID-19**

1 Introduction:

- 1.1 COVID-19 is an infectious disease caused by a newly discovered coronavirus. Most people infected with the COVID-19 virus will experience running nose or sore throat or mild to moderate respiratory illness and recover without requiring special treatment or hospitalisation. Older people and those with underlying medical conditions like cardiovascular disease, diabetes, chronic respiratory disease, and cancer are more likely to develop complications or serious illness.
- 1.2 3rd wave of COVID-19 is predominantly associated with the Omicron variant (B.1.1.529). This variant is considered 3-4 times more infective than the Delta variant. Symptoms due to Corona virus infection are similar to that of other Corona virus variants but so far the figures of hospitalisation, complications and deaths are lesser vis-a- vis 2nd wave.
- 1.3 ATC workplaces have relatively close settings. Maintaining minimum required physical distancing is very difficult due to location of various working positions and nature of ATC Operations. Therefore, COVID-19 infection can spread relatively faster among air traffic controllers, if any of the controllers is infected with COVID-19.
- 1.4 The clinical presentation of COVID-19 infection is wide ranging. The aeromedical disposition of ATCO who has been tested positive on Reverse Transcriptase - Polymerase Chain Reaction (RT-PCR) testing is essentially dependent on Clinical presentation of the disease.
 - a) **Asymptomatic cases:** - Those who have no symptoms or signs, their Respiratory rate is less than 24/min, Temperature is normal and SpO2 is more than 93%, such cases are generally advised home stay or home isolation management.
 - b) **Symptomatic Cases:** - Based on symptoms and presentation, SpO2 less than 93%, HRCT imaging, status of inflammatory markers, these Covid-19 cases are further



divided into four types: Mild, Moderate, Severe and Critical. Such cases are managed according to existing guidelines on the subject issued from time to time by Ministry of Health and Family Welfare.

- 1.5 Clinically assigned mild cases are patients with upper respiratory tract symptoms with or without fever, without shortness of breath and having oxygen saturation at room air of more than 93%.
- 1.6 When a suspected or confirmed COVID-19 returns to workplace without negative RT-PCR or without adequate Home Quarantine/Isolation, there is risk of spreading transmission of COVID-19 among other air traffic controllers.
- 1.7 Therefore, there is need to have procedures for aeromedical disposal of air traffic controllers who are intending to return for ATC duty so that their medical fitness for ATC duties could be ensured and also to reduce the risk of transmission of COVID-19 at ATC workplaces.

2 Purpose:

- 2.1 Purpose of this circular is to establish the procedure for aeromedical disposal of medical fitness of holder of air traffic controller's/student air traffic controller's licence who have been infected with COVID-19 and intending to return to workplace for performing ATC duties.

3 Applicability:

- 3.1 This CAPC is applicable to all the trainee air traffic controllers, holders of SATCOL/ATCOL and rated air traffic controllers who have been infected with COVID-19, ATS In-charges and Medical Assessor of AAI.

4 Procedures:

- 4.1 **Terms used and their meaning:** For the purpose of this CAPC, the abbreviations and terms used in the CAPC will have the following meaning:

AAI: Airports Authority of India

AMA: Authorised Medical Attendant

ATC: Air Traffic Control

ATCO: Air Traffic Control Officer or Air Traffic Controller

ATCOL: Air Traffic Controller's Licence

CAP: Certification of ATS Personnel

CAPC: Certification of ATS Personnel Circular

DGCA: Directorate General of Civil Aviation

ED: Executive Director

SATCOL: Student Air Traffic Controller's Licence



4.1.1 “ATS In-charge” means, the senior most executive of ATM directorate at an ATS station responsible for managing day-to-day ATM operations that includes air traffic management, training and rating of ATM personnel, manpower management, safety and other functions assigned in accordance with various manuals, circulars or orders issued by ATM directorate or any other directorate of AAI maintaining surveillance or oversight over ATM activities.

4.2 Procedures for ATCOs who have been tested Covid-19 positive

4.2.1 The ATCOs who have been tested Covid-19 positive shall not perform ATC duty unless they have been declared fit by AMA (Consultant Aviation Medical Specialist) AAI, CAP Directorate as per the procedure in Para 4.2.2

4.2.2 Procedures for aeromedical disposal for SARS CoV-2-Positive ATCOs:

a) Asymptomatic cases: On completion of Home Isolation period of 7 days.

Asymptomatic cases maintain respiratory rate which is less than 24/min, SpO2 is more than 93%, such cases are generally advised Home Isolation for 7 days. ATCOs under home isolation will end isolation after at least 7 days have passed from date of sampling for asymptomatic cases. RT-PCR ‘Negative’ report is not required after the home isolation period is over. An undertaking for home isolation is to be furnished by the ATCO (in the proforma attached as Annexure -1) or a Cure certificate from an MBBS Allopathic Doctor is to be forwarded to AMA (Consultant Aviation Medical Specialist) AAI, CAP Directorate for issuance of Medical Fitness report.

b) Mildly/Moderately symptomatic cases: Home Isolation Period from 7 to 14 days from the date of onset of symptoms.

ATCO who is tested Positive through RT-PCR with mild symptoms will continue home isolation and will stand discharged after 7-14 Days of onset of symptoms (as the case may be) and no fever for 3 days. Such ATCO is not required to furnish RT-PCR ‘Negative’ report to office after Home Isolation Period is over. Medical advice or Prescription, treatment and cure certificate from an MBBS Allopathic Doctor also stating home isolation period are to be forwarded to AMA (Consultant Aviation Medical Specialist) AAI, CAP Directorate for issuance of Medical Fitness report.

c) SARs Cov-2 Positive Severe/critical cases: Home Isolation period of more than 14 days from date of laboratory confirmed ‘Positive’ of Covid-19 or Hospitalisation.

i. Where hospitalisation is not required: After complete recovery and completion of home isolation period, the ATCO shall forward RT-PCR ‘Negative’ Report, Medical advice or Prescription, treatment and fitness certificate from an MBBS Allopathic Doctor to AMA (Consultant Aviation Medical Specialist) AAI, CAP Directorate for issuance Medical Fitness report.

ii. Where hospitalisation is required: After hospital management and completion of home isolation period, on complete recovery, the ATCO shall forward Hospital



discharge summary and fitness certificate from a Physician (MD Medicine) to AMA (Consultant Aviation Medical Specialist) AAI, CAP Directorate for issuance of Medical Fitness. However, if the total period from the date of onset of symptoms to complete recovery is more than 20 days the ATCO will be required to undergo Special Medical Examination in accordance with DGCA procedures for Class 3 Medical Assessment for ATCOs, Issue No.1 dated 10 Sep 2021.

- 4.2.3 These procedures will be reviewed periodically as per the Government of India and DGCA directives.

5 Queries:

- 5.1 Any queries or further guidance required on the contents of this CAPC should be addressed to:

Executive Director [CAP]
Airports Authority of India
Rajiv Gandhi Bhawan
Safdarjung Airport
New Delhi-110003
E-mail: edcap@aaiaero

6 Validity

- 6.1 This CAPC comes into force with immediate effect and will remain in force until further notice. This CAPC supersedes CAPC 02 of 2021.


20/01/2022

(O S EKKA)

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR [CAP]
AIRPORTS AUTHORITY OF INDIA

Dated: 20-01-2022

Annexure 1
(Refer CAPC 02 of 2022)

Undertaking on Home -Isolation

(to be filled in asymptomatic Covid positive home-isolation cases)

I {Name of employee in capital letters}, {Designation}. Employee No {write employee number}, ATCOL/SATCOL No. {write ATCOL/SATCOL number if available} posted at {station of posting}, S/W of {father's/Husband's Name} was diagnosed as a laboratory confirmed Positive of Covid-19 on {date of sampling}, voluntarily undertaken strict home isolation/ advised home quarantine for the prescribed 7/ 10/14 days . I was afebrile during this period and did not take any medication/ took medication as per advice of the local medical authorities. I was aware that in case any of my close family member had developed any symptoms consistent with Covid-19, I was to immediately inform appropriate authorities.

I followed the precautions that I needed to follow while I was under home isolation. I was aware that I was liable to be acted on under the prescribed law for any non- adherence/ violation to home Isolation Protocol.

Signature of the ATCO:

Name:

Age(yrs)/Gender:/.....

Date:

Contact Number: