

MEDIA RELEASE

THREE MORE AIRPORTS ALL SET FOR WEDNESDAY REOPENING

BEDFORDVIEW, 30 June 2020 – Management and staff at three airports that will reopen for business travel from Wednesday are fully prepared and excited to play a role in re-building economic activity in their respective regions.

Senzeni Ndebele, spokesperson for Airports Company South Africa, says that reconnecting regional centres through air links is an essential element of reigniting local economies.

Minister of Transport, Fikile Mbalula, announced earlier that the airports serving Port Elizabeth, Bloemfontein and Upington would be able to open from 1 July.

“Most businesses have maintained at least some level of connectivity through virtual channels during the lockdown periods. However, ultimately there are critical business activities that require in-person presence, particularly in the Eastern Cape which is strongly represented in the automotive industry.

“We are therefore pleased that we will be able to reopen service at the three airports as announced by the Minister,” said Ndebele.

She said that managers and staff at the airports have over the past few weeks implemented the required measures and training to ensure that they could reopen quickly.

All protocols and processes applied when the three largest international airports reopened at the beginning of June will also be in place at the airports serving Port Elizabeth, Bloemfontein and Upington.

“As they have international status, these airports already have Port Health support which will enable the necessary health screening to be carried out.

“There will also be new arrangements in terms of parking, terminal access points and screening at each airport. It is important for business passengers to give themselves enough time to get through the required protocols,” said Ndebele.

She emphasised that the onus is on the passenger to ensure that business travel documentation is in order before booking a flight.

Ndebele says the company plans to continue engaging with relevant authorities to seek a solution to the lack of Port Health representation at George, Kimberley and East London airports.

Ndebele appealed to business passengers to familiarise themselves with the new protocols and procedures and to exercise patience with the extra time now required at the airport.

Arriving at the airport

- Passengers must use drop-and-go facilities or public transport. Only passengers will be allowed into the terminal
- Limited parkade options will be available. These are signposted at each airport.
- Meeters and greeters will not be allowed in the terminal building.
- Baggage wrapping is encouraged for all check-in luggage.

Airport entrances and access control

- Access to terminal buildings will be restricted.
- Physical distancing rules will apply at the terminal entrance.
- Masks are compulsory from entry to the airport all the way through a flight and out of the destination airport.
- Health screening of all passengers and staff will be conducted at entrances.
- Passengers must produce their business travel permission letters at the entrance.
- It is the passenger's responsibility to ensure that they have the necessary permission letter before they book a flight.

Check-in process

- Passengers should check in online before going to the airport.
- Online check in can be done at the screens in the terminal building.
- A limited number of check-in counters will be open and physical distancing rules will apply in these queues.
- Using a check-in counter will take longer.

Security checkpoint process

- Passengers will scan their own paper-based or mobile device-based boarding pass to the scanner at the security checkpoint.
- Passengers should remove any metal and electronic items from their person before entering the security queue. This includes mobile devices, watches, jewellery, wallets, keys and so on.
- These items must be placed in the tray at the security scanner.
- This process will minimise the need for security officers to conduct physical pat downs at the checkpoint.

Boarding the aircraft

- Physical distancing rules apply for queues to board an aircraft.
- Passengers must scan their own boarding pass at the boarding gate.
- Boarding will be done in a controlled manner with passengers travelling in the rear seats of the aircraft boarding first. Passengers with tickets for Row A, for example, will board last.
- Masks must be worn for the duration of the flight.

Disembarking from an aircraft

- Masks must continue to be used when disembarking and moving towards the baggage carousels.
- Physical distancing rules will apply at the baggage carousels.
- Crowding close to the baggage carousels will not be permitted.

ENDS

Media enquiries:

Senzeni Ndebele, Senior Manager: Corporate Affairs

E-mail: senzeni.ndebele@airports.co.za

Mobile: 062 083 4858