

PRESS RELEASE

CPA TO COLLABORATE WITH AIRLINE CARRIERS TO SUSPEND TRAVEL AND FLIGHTS INTO THE CNMI ON A VOLUNTARY BASIS TO GIVE EFFECT TO GOVERNOR'S EXECUTIVE ORDER

No. 02-2020

[COMMONWEALTH PORTS AUTHORITY] The Commonwealth Ports Authority's mission, among other responsibilities, is to ensure the safety of our citizens and travelers as to our airports and seaports at all times. This safety component is primarily focused in safety systems in aviation and airport operations.

However, the public health safety concern with the 2019 Novel Coronavirus is a substantial concern for our community requiring our immediate action to confer with our airlines in response to the Emergency Declaration by Governor Ralph DLG. Torres. The process is intended to balance our responsibility in our "Open Skies" for all airlines and travelers against the compelling interest of our Commonwealth to prevent the arrival of a communicable health threat in our islands.

The authority to regulate, suspend or cancel flights, travelers and airlines into the CNMI is within the jurisdiction of the U.S. Department of Homeland Security, Customs and Border Patrol. CPA's role is to confer with DHS CBP and the FAA with respect to achieving the interests of border control and safety while protecting our Commonwealth.

By communicating with the FAA and DOT CPA will engage our airline carriers to achieve the interest of ensuring our public's health and safety without impeding airline operations. To do so, CPA must focus on the goal of public safety rather than whose authority or responsibility it is as to public health safety. It is our collective responsibility to approach the Coronavirus issue with informed vigilance and purpose.

We appreciate the cooperation of our airlines and partners in the aviation industry in dealing with a public health threat that is fluid, unpredictable

and serious in scope and impact. CPA will continue to keep the traveling public, our airline partners, stakeholders and our community informed and abreast of our efforts with the Administration and CHCC to work together to protect our community.

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