



**REPUBLIC of SAN MARINO
CIVIL AVIATION AUTHORITY**

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SAFETY NOTICE No. 02/2021 Issue 01

VACCINATION OF AVIATION SAFETY PERSONNEL (COVID-19 PANDEMIC)

This Safety Notice applies to all operators of San Marino
registered aircraft and all Aviation Safety Personnel.

1. Introduction

- a) As we are all aware that many States have started their vaccinations programmes and there are reports of possible side effects that could impact the safety performance of those vaccinated for a period of time after having received the vaccine. This Safety Notice is directed at anyone whose has a safety role within the aviation industry, whose safety performance could be affected, should they suffer side effects.
- b) The World Health Organisation (WHO) has recommended States prioritise transport workers, which include aircrew, in their vaccination programmes, unless they have additional risk factors, in which case they would be prioritised on an individual basis. Nevertheless, several States have included among their priority lists crew members involved in helicopter emergency medical services and air ambulance services, some of whom may have already received one dose of vaccine prior to the issuance of this safety notice.

2. Side-Effects

- a) These side effects are generally mild and usually common to any type of vaccine, e.g. headache, mild fever, nausea, pain at the site of injection, dizziness, gastrointestinal disorders, lymphadenopathy, thromboembolic events, etc.
- b) These side effects have shown to be more frequent between 12 and 48 hours following the vaccination and, in isolated cases, with a potential extended duration of up to 7 days. Severe side effects are extremely rare and were cited to be more frequent among the persons with multiple allergies and tend to appear immediately, in the first 30 minutes following the vaccination. Side effects were also reported more frequent following the second dose of the vaccine. The side effects of the approved vaccines may be further enhanced by in-flight conditions while at cruise level, such as lower air pressure and mild hypoxic environment. Currently, there is no evidence available regarding the impact of in-flight conditions on the severity of the side effects, nor on the resulting impact on the performance of the crew members during their safety related tasks.
- c) For these reasons, taking into account that these vaccines are new pharmacological products, and in order to ensure that the side effects described above do not interfere with the completion of any safety-related tasks, I have issued this safety notice to draw the aviation community's attention to information and guidelines provided by European Aviation Safety



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Agency (EASA), WHO, European Medicines Agency (EMA), European Centre for Disease Prevention and Control (ECDC) and ICAO on aircrew vaccination.

3. Recommendation(s)

- a) Due to their increased exposure, it is highly recommended for aviation safety personnel to receive the COVID-19 vaccine as soon as they become available in accordance with their affected States COVID-19 vaccine roll-out plan.
- b) Operators and aircrew members should consider a waiting period of 48 hours after each dose of COVID-19 vaccine, before aircrew members should be engaged in any flight-related tasks in accordance with the privileges of their flight crew licence or cabin crew attestation. This interval should be extended to 72 hours for aircrew members performing single crew operations.
- c) Aircrew are advised to seek medical advice in case side effects persist for more than 48 hours following the vaccination and, in consultation with their medical professionals (AME), extend the waiting period until the time when the side effects completely disappear.
- d) Aircrew are reminded to give proper consideration to the requirements of CAR.MED.A.020 Decrease in medical fitness.
- e) Medical professionals who are performing medical examinations of aircrew should encourage consultation regarding the indication and side effects of vaccination.
- f) Operators, aircrew and aviation safety personnel are advised to consider the above-mentioned recommendations to compliment any advice or guidance provided by their licensing State.

This safety notice will remain in effect until cancelled.

Eng. Marco Conti
Director General

19 April 2021