

Information from MedAire's security director, John Cauthen.

By the end of December 2019 a new virus epidemic was reported in central China, originating in the city of Wuhan, Hubei Province. The disease is caused by a novel virus of the Coronavirus family, and was officially named Covid-19 by the World Health Organization on 11 February, 2020.

Coronaviruses are a large family of viruses, some of which can infect people. Some cause mild illness, such as the strains responsible for some common colds. Others can potentially lead to severe, or even fatal, disease.

MedAire, an organization that provides medical and security advice and assistance to business aviation operators, is providing the following advice to operators:

- Continue to defer non-essential operations to mainland China amid Covid-19 outbreak.
- Business-essential short turnaround operations may be considered with stringent planning.

Operators with interests in China should continue to defer non-essential operations to mainland China due to stringent travel restrictions amid the Covid-19 outbreak.

All operations to Hubei province and Wenzhou (Zhejiang province) should be deferred.

While essential short-turnaround to Chinese airports outside of Hubei and Wenzhou may take place with discretion, operators should monitor for changes in travel restrictions imposed by the Chinese or other national governments and be prepared for potential short-notice movement constraints if further restrictions are introduced.

If travelling to mainland China, operators should follow all official directives, and be prepared to stand fast for an indefinite period of time should further restrictions be implemented.

"Our greatest concern for operators to China is the possibility of a rapid or unexpected escalation of travel restrictions with little-to-no notice, which would, in effect, leave operators and their assets stranded in country," said John Cauthen, MedAire Security Director.

Such measures would likely take place at political discretion and therefore would be extremely difficult to predict in advance. Besides the possibility of the Chinese government restricting flights out of the country, any other national government could make the decision to impose additional restrictions of their own, as illustrated above.

MedAire advises operators planning flights to China to carefully consider the above and ensure they are comfortable with these risks.

For operators leaving China, many airports worldwide have enhanced screening measures for passengers inbound from China. While these are brief medical screens with limited impact on operations in most cases, other nations have begun to enact more stringent requirements for aircraft and personnel arriving from China.

While the risk of infection of Covid-19 outside of mainland China is extremely low, many questions have been raised. To help educate the business aviation community, MedAire has created an FAQ with best practices to prevent and mitigate the spread of contagious disease on board.

Click here to download [Covid-19: Best Practices for Business Aviation](#).