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## COVID-19 Operational Measures at MIA

The Miami-Dade Aviation Department (MDAD), in coordination with its federal partners, airlines, concessionaires and Miami-Dade County government, continues to closely monitor the latest developments related to (COVID-19), in order to maintain safe, healthy and efficient operations for passengers, visitors and employees. While the United States government has restricted entry to the United States from some countries, domestic air travel and some international travel are still permitted.

Miami International Airport (MIA) continues to be one of 13 U.S. airports approved by the U.S. Department of Homeland Security (DHS) to receive flights from the Schengen area of 26 European countries, the United Kingdom and the Republic of Ireland, under a [presidential proclamation](#) that permits entry to the U.S. from those countries for U.S. citizens and legal permanent residents only.

MDAD is taking the following aggressive measures to avoid the spread of COVID-19:

Requiring all passengers, visitors, and employees at MIA to wear facial coverings, as stated in Miami-Dade County [Executive Order 23-20](#).

Installing protective plexiglass screens in key areas such as check-in counters, boarding gates, information counters and TSA checkpoint queue lines.

Coordinating with janitorial partners to ensure that high traffic areas, including restrooms, TSA checkpoints, international arrivals and employee areas have been deep-cleaned and are frequently maintained while following best practices.

Making sure high "touch-point" areas, such as kiosks, handrails and elevator buttons are cleansed frequently with hospital grade disinfectants.

Placing signs throughout the terminal reminding passengers, visitors and employees to practice safe social distancing and to wear facial coverings. Informational signage on how to prevent the spread of COVID-19 can be found throughout the airport.

Positioning floor markings throughout the terminals, displaying where passengers should stand to ensure proper social distancing. MDAD staff will assist in urging passengers to practice social distancing if they are waiting in line.

Adding additional hand sanitizing stations throughout the terminals and near information counters, as well as key employee operating areas.

Increasing the replenishment schedule of hand sanitizing solutions that meet and/or exceed CDC recommended standards, and dining and retail locations are restricted to 50% capacity and social distancing measures have been implemented. We look forward to welcoming you to MIA soon.

[Fly Safe, Fly Smart.](#)

This edition is dedicated to our fallen colleague and team member, Protocol and International Affairs Officer Marek Wojcik who passed away on May 26, 2020. We extend our gratitude and appreciation to those who sent their condolences, and made contributions to the Wojcik family.

As more passengers return to Miami International Airport, they will notice the new infrastructure, upgrades and protocols in place. Some of the top line changes and operational measures to curb the spread of COVID-19 at MIA and protect visitors, travelers and employees are presented for the convenience of our readers.

The period from Memorial Day, June 14 and the Fourth of July is known as "Flag Season." Although flags are among the most identifiable and recognizable objects in the world, their origin remains mainly unknown. See the history of flags on page 2.

Finally, we join our readers in celebrating 244 years of American Independence Day on the Fourth of July and the birth of the United States of America as an independent nation.

Please be safe.

### Inside this issue

Division Director's Message	1
New COVID-19 Measures at MIA	1
Briefs and Notes: Flag Season	2
Important Weblinks	2
About Us	2
Flag Facts	2

### In Remembrance of Marek Wojcik



We announce with great sadness and grief the loss of our friend and colleague, Marek Wojcik, Protocol and International Affairs Officer. He passed after a brief illness on Tuesday, May 26, 2020 at the age of 56.

Mr. Wojcik joined Miami-Dade Aviation Department (MDAD) in 2005. He was proficient in Polish, German, Russian and Italian languages. He also had a broad intercultural expertise, a critical element in succeeding on the global stage. He lived in Poland, Germany, and Italy prior to emigrating to the US. He obtained a master's degree of economics and a business administration degree. His hobbies were - traveling, ecology, linguistics, music, and foreign films.

He was a valued member of the Protocol Division team and he will surely be missed. He is survived by his parents Mr. Roman Wojcik and Mrs. Teresa Wojcik.

### Ready for International Travel?

The International Airline Transportation Association (IATA) has created an up-to-date [Interactive COVID-19 Travel Regulations Map](#) for travelers to gauge which worldwide destinations are opening up to receive visitors again, and to what degree.

**Is it Safe to Fly?** [The Center for Disease Control and Prevention \(CDC\) - Consideration for Travelers - COVID-19](#)

**How Powerful is your National Passport?** [The Henley Passport Index](#) provides annually, a ranking of the most powerful passports in the world based on how many destinations the holder can enter without a visa. Check your passport's global access!

### Additional Resources:

Vexillology is the study of the history, symbolism, and usage of flags. See also: [North American Vexillological Association](#) (NAVA) - the largest flag-studies organization in the world.

<https://www.britannica.com/topic/Flags-and-Anthems-of-the-World-1694666>

<https://www.britannica.com/topic/flag-of-Denmark>

<https://www.worldatlas.com/articles/which-is-the-oldest-continuously-used-national-flag.html>

<https://www.crwflags.com/fotw/flags/xf-colx.html>

<https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Flag>

<https://www.kickassfacts.com/25-interesting-facts-about-flags/>

### ABOUT US

The core mission of MDAD's Protocol and International Affairs Division is -

*To facilitate the movement of official guests, delegations, dignitaries and VIPs through MIA and support the airport's international programs and initiatives.*

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For comments, suggestions, event announcements or to opt-out, please send us an email.

### Flag Season

In the United States, Memorial Day, Flag Day and the Fourth of July is considered as 'Flag Season.' Memorial Day is a day honoring and mourning the military personnel who have died while serving in the United States Armed Forces. It is observed on the last Monday of May, having been observed on May 30 from 1868 to 1970. Flag Day is celebrated annually on June 14. It commemorates the adoption of the flag of the United States on June 14, 1777 by resolution of the Second Continental Congress. The fourth of July commemorates the Declaration of Independence of the United States, on July 4, 1776. Each Day of the "flag season" is a Federal Holiday.

### History of Flags

Although flags are among the most identifiable and recognizable objects in the world, their origin remains mainly unknown. In antiquity, standards used in warfare could be categorized as vexilloid or "flag-like". Flags, as we recognize them today, made from a piece of cloth, first appeared in ancient China. It is said that the founder of the Zhou dynasty (1046–256 BCE) had a white flag carried before him. Chinese flags also depicted colorful animals such as red birds, blue dragons, and white tigers. As their use spread through the Indian subcontinent, shapes and colors evolved. Indian flags were often triangular and green or scarlet. From China and India, flags spread throughout Southeast Asia to the Middle East. Due to prohibitions in Islam against using any identifiable image, Islamic flags were simplified and appeared to have been plain black, white or red. It is believed that the Saracens brought flags to Europe, where they were used primarily as heraldic devices in battle, making it easier to identify knights and their followers.

Beginning in the 17<sup>th</sup> century, it became customary for ships to carry flags identifying their nationality, and many of these flags evolved into the national flags we know today. Flags also became the preferred means of communication at sea. With the rise of nationalist sentiment at the end of the 18<sup>th</sup> century, the use of flags changed from a primarily military or naval context to a symbol of national identity. Today, the most popular use of a flag is to symbolize a nation or country.

### Colors and Designs

The colors and designs selected for national flags are not arbitrary but rather stem from the history, culture, or religion of the country. The most common color on national flags is red, which is found on 74 % of all flags. Next is white (71%), then blue (50%), followed by yellow (43%), green (42%), and black (22%). The least common color is purple. Only two national flags, the flags of Dominica and Nicaragua use purple in their designs. Using three colors remains the most popular, followed by 2 and 4 colors respectively.

### Flag Facts

The world's oldest continuously used flag is that of Denmark, which has been used since 1625. It features a white Scandinavian cross set on a red field. This design was adopted in 1625, and a square shaped flag was adopted in 1748.

The flag of the United States is nicknamed the Stars and Stripes or "Old Glory." On June 14, 1777, the Second Continental Congress adopted the Stars and Stripes as the first official national flag of the USA. Francis Hopkinson designed two early versions of the American flags. On May 25, 1780, he wrote a letter to the Continental Board of Admiralty mentioning several patriotic designs he had completed, including: "the Flag of the United States of America."

**Lunar Flags:** A total of six U.S. flags were erected or "planted" on the Moon during the Apollo missions. Dennis Lacarrubba's New Jersey-based company, Annin, designed the nylon flag erected on the Moon by Commander Neil Armstrong in 1969. NASA purchased the flag for the sum of five U.S. dollars (\$5.50.)

**Identical National Flags:** The Republic of Chad and Romania have [identical flags](#).

The Republic of Haiti and the Principality of Liechtenstein also have identical flags. During the [Opening Ceremonies of the 1936 Summer Olympics in Berlin](#), it was discovered that the flags of both nations consisted of two horizontal bands: a blue band on top of a red one. To distinguish the flags, Liechtenstein added a gold crown to the hoist side of the blue band in 1937.