



# EIB World Trade Headlines

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## When Does Hand Sanitizer Expire? Here's How to Know If It's Still Safe to Use

By Nancy Mattia  
May 01, 2020

Among the products that have been in short supply since the novel coronavirus started sweeping the nation a few months ago is hand sanitizer. It's no wonder: Washing your hands on a frequent basis is one of the best defenses against contracting—or spreading—the deadly virus. If you're like most people, though, you've looked everywhere for a bottle of sanitizer only to find that all the grocery stores, online retailers, even office-supply stores say the same thing: out of stock. Three little words, one big worry—what now?

Then, you find a bottle that's been sitting in the back of your closet probably for several years. Is it still good, or does hand sanitizer expire after awhile? To find out, we investigated the facts on manufacturing and regulation.

### **Does hand sanitizer have an expiration date, and does it lose its effectiveness immediately after it?**

Yes, hand sanitizer does have an expiration date, but that doesn't necessarily mean you should throw it out if the date listed on the bottle has passed. What makes a sanitizer most effective in removing bacteria and germs is an alcohol content of at least 60 percent, according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC).

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Sanitizer expires because its alcohol content dissolves over time—once it drops below 60 percent alcohol, it won't be as effective at killing germs. If an expired bottle of sanitizer is unopened, it will have retained much of its alcohol strength; alternatively, an opened bottle will have lost some strength because the alcohol will have evaporated, and the product won't be as effective but is still safe to use.

It's worth noting that some new bottles produced under a temporary Food & Drug Administration (FDA) policy to step up production may not have an expiration date listed. These new bottles of sanitizer are expected to be used during the current public health emergency and not linger in the back of a closet for years.

#### **Why is there an expiration date?**

Hand sanitizers are regulated by the FDA, which requires manufacturers to print an expiration date on all over-the-counter drugs unless a company has data showing that the product is stable for more than three years.

#### **If I have an expired product, what are my other alternatives?**

Use plain old soap and water. It's the CDC's first choice for effective hand-washing (hand sanitizer is the next best thing). Though antibacterial soap sounds like a better product to use than regular soap, it's not, at least for now. The FDA says that the elevated status of antibacterials hasn't been proven so far; use bottled hand sanitizer as a backup if soap and water aren't available, like when you're outdoors or in a store. Whether using soap or sanitizer, wash your hands thoroughly for 20 seconds and moisturize them after each wash to prevent dry, cracked skin.



## **DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE**

Bureau of Industry and Security Notice of Request for Public Comments on Section 232 National

Security Investigation of Imports of Laminations for Stacked Cores for Incorporation into Transformers, Stacked Cores for Incorporation into Transformers, Wound Cores for Incorporation into Transformers, Electrical Transformers, and Transformer Regulators

#### **MORE INFO:**

<https://www.bis.doc.gov/index.php/documents/regulations-docs/federal-register-notices/federal-register-2020/2552-85-fr-29926-electrical-steel-232-investigation-frn-published-5-19-20/file>

#### **AGENCY:**

Bureau of Industry and Security, Office of Technology Evaluation, U.S. Department of Commerce.

#### **ACTION:**

Notice of request for public comments.

#### **SUMMARY:**

On May 11, 2020, based on inquiries and requests from interested parties in the United States, including multiple Members of Congress, a Grain-Oriented Electrical Steel (GOES) manufacturer, and producers of Power and Distribution Transformers, the Secretary of Commerce (the "Secretary") initiated an investigation to determine the effect of imports of Laminations for Stacked Cores for Incorporation into Transformers, Stacked Cores for Incorporation into Transformers, Wound Cores for Incorporation into Transformers, Electrical Transformers, and Transformer Regulators on the national security. This investigation has been initiated under section 232 of the Trade Expansion Act of 1962, as amended.

Interested parties are invited to submit written comments, data, analyses, or other information pertinent to the investigation to the Department of Commerce's (the "Department") Bureau of Industry and Security by June 9, 2020. Rebuttal comments will be due by June 19, 2020. While the Department is interested in any information related to this investigation that the public can provide, this notice identifies particular issues of significance.

#### **DATES:**

The due date for filing comments is June 9, 2020. The due date for rebuttal comments is June 19, 2020. Rebuttal comments may only address issues raised in comments filed on or before June 9, 2020.

## WTO IS THREATENED

WTO wobbles as few countries pull support

Byline: Mubarak Zeb Khan

After the 11th World Trade Organisation (WTO) ministerial conference failed to agree on anything, Pakistan joined a group of 30 members called 'Friends of the Multilateral System', which aims to protect the more than two decades old trade body and post-war trading system.

Therefore, there was no declaration and only a chairs summary was issued after the conference. The US did not agree to any draft declaration, as it wants no reiteration of commitment to a multilateral system.

The United States, once the guarantor of a multilateral trading system, is now leading a group of countries against the WTO. The 164 members of WTO gathered in Buenos Aires last week to break a deadlock over stalled negotiations under the so-called Doha Development Agenda.

At the beginning of the ministerial, there were only 30 members, while the rest joined to the end. Friends of the system and like-minded 46 developing and developed members have come up with a detailed joint declaration expressing concern over the challenges faced by the WTO and stating that opposing countries should support the multilateral trading system.

It was observed that no progress has been made in negotiations since the WTO ministerial conference in Nairobi in 2015. The group demanded that all issues need to be renegotiated, to cater to the needs of the developing countries. The group also expressed concern on non-appointments to Appellate body which are blocked by US. One of the voices raised was of Pakistan's Commerce Minister Pervaiz Malik who said two concepts were enshrined in the founding document of WTO multilateralism and development which define the future of global trade and the WTO. Pakistan remains committed to these ideals.

'In our view, any decisions that isolate some members, or do not cater for the concerns and needs of developing countries, will be damaging and retrogressive,' the minister said.

Agriculture remains the lifeline for most economies across the globe. Food security and sustainability are one of the greatest challenges for the 21st century. 'We must find ways to ensure that we work towards a common future that benefits our next generations,' the minister said.

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At the ministerial, one of the substantial issues was the public stock holding (PSH) for food security purposes which could not be agreed upon.

Pakistan was supporting a solution with safeguards against market distortions in international market and third country impact. However, India and South Africa wanted a watered-down Bali decision. Many countries wanted PSH to cover new programmes. The US point blank refused anything on public stock holding on food security.

The only outcome of the ministerial was an agreement on a future work programme on fishery subsidies. Similarly, on e-commerce merely a rollover of the moratorium and the present work programme was agreed upon.

Pakistan's Permanent Representative to WTO and Ambassador Dr Tauqeer Shah told this scribe that the country participated actively and positively on all issues ensuring its core interest which was reflected and registered in all those meetings.

He said Pakistan hosted a meeting of Friends of E-commerce to develop a like minded group. In this meeting, he said 16 countries participated including Argentina, Mexico, Costa Rica, Columbia, Uruguay, Sri Lanka, Nigeria, Kenya, China, Moldova, Montenegro and Russia.

On emerging issues, like investment facilitation and trade, no agreement was reached at the ministerial. However, China hosted a ministerial meeting about 40 countries including Pakistan participated and there was a joint statement issued at the end of the meeting.

Many trade analysts believe the WTO is at a crossroads and that inward looking policies will remain a major threat to the multilateral trading system

A new initiative called the 'Programme for Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises' was attempted by a group of 80 countries including Pakistan. The issue was highly deliberated but again no agreement was reached. At the end, a joint statement was issued highlighting the importance of the sector and how to integrate it with the multilateral trading system.

A joint declaration was issued by around 100 countries at the sidelines on economic empowerment of women through trade, facilitated by the International Trade Centre. Pakistan was part of the core teams which worked on the empowerment of women in the global trading system.

Ambassador Tauqeer said the ministerial opportunity was used by Pakistan for a large number of bilateral meetings with Qatar, China, Turkey, Costa Rica, Japan, Tanzania, Russia, Mauritius and the Mercosur countries: Brazil, Argentina, Paraguay and Uruguay.

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These discussions were aimed at not only strengthening the multilateral trading system, but also to pursue greater market access on a bilateral basis.

Pakistan is also one of the active members of the Cairns group, propagating removal of all export subsidies, and G-33 developing countries. Dr Tauqeer said the country took part in deliberations of the two forums to present its position at the sidelines of WTO ministerial.

Pakistan also participated in a IPU meeting organised by Argentina parliament parallel to the WTO ministerial. MNA Siraj Khan Chairman of the NA committee on commerce represented Pakistan.

Many trade analysts believe the World Trade Organisation is at a crossroads and that inward looking policies will remain a major threat to the multilateral trading system.

## How Slovakia Is Beating Covid-19

Slovakia has the lowest Covid-19 death rate in Europe, according to Johns Hopkins data (0.46 per 100,000 people)—a wild success, compared to countries like Belgium (73.01, Europe's highest). Credit can't go to geographical luck, as neighboring Czech Republic, Hungary, and Poland have seen death rates four to eight times as high, and as Miroslav Beblavy writes for Foreign Policy, Slovakia is hardly isolated from the rest of the continent: Its students study abroad, and its people travel, including about 50,000 to pandemic-stricken northern Italy in late February and early March.

Rather, Slovakia benefited from a lockdown 10 days after its first case, Beblavy writes—and, more importantly, from widespread public compliance with social-distancing measures and a news media that took the threat seriously early on. “A pivotal moment came on March 13, when the anchor of the country's most popular television program, Zlatica Puskarova, hosted incoming Prime Minister Igor Matovic and his health minister,” Beblavy writes. “Puskarova began by asking the government officials why they didn't lead by example, handing them two face masks. They complied immediately, and from the next day the whole country started making and wearing face protection. Since then, no Slovak politician, news reporter, or celebrity would be seen in public without a mask.” After flattening the curve thanks to broad civic compliance, Beblavy writes, Slovakia began lifting restrictions on April 22 and, with new daily infections in the single digits, “opened most shops, restaurants, and hotels” yesterday.

## SEC probes Raytheon over Middle East payments

The U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission has opened an inquiry into whether defense contractor Raytheon Co. or its partners made improper payments in the Middle East.

Raytheon received a subpoena from regulators as part of an investigation into the company and a joint venture with France's Thales SA, Raytheon said in a securities filing Wednesday.

The SEC has asked for information about payments by Raytheon, the joint venture or any intermediaries acting on their behalf in certain Middle Eastern countries dating back to 2014, the company said.

Raytheon didn't say when it had received the subpoena. Company spokesman Mike Doble said Raytheon was cooperating with the SEC's inquiry.

“We take any suggestion of misconduct seriously and we are examining whether there has been any conduct that is in violation of Raytheon policy,” he said.

A spokesman for Thales said the company hadn't been contacted by U.S. authorities with respect to the matter.

Raytheon's joint venture with Thales, which stretches back in 2000, allowed the companies to combine some of their air defense and radar businesses.

The U.S. Foreign Corrupt Practices Act prohibits companies from paying bribes to foreign public officials.

Raytheon has had past brushes with the anticorruption law. An internal review in 2009 turned up possible areas of concern with regard to compliance with the FCPA, the company said at the time.

The matter came to a close in 2013, when the SEC and the U.S. Justice Department told Raytheon they had completed their own reviews of the company's disclosure and wouldn't be recommending enforcement actions.

Raytheon last year announced plans to merge with United Technologies Corp., a combination that the companies have argued would allow them to address changing defense priorities and budget pressures. UTC didn't immediately respond to a request for comment.

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## Pentagon officials slam FCC's Ligado 5G decision, citing national security risks

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Key Points

- Pentagon officials on Wednesday slammed a recent Federal Communications Commission decision to allow Ligado to deploy a nationwide mobile broadband network, saying it may disrupt GPS signals crucial to military operations.
- Last month, the five-member FCC voted unanimously to allow Ligado Networks to deploy a low-power nationwide 5G network despite objections from federal agencies, including the Departments of Defense and Commerce, as well as major U.S. airlines.
- "Ligado and 5G simply do not go together. It is clear to the DoD that the risk to GPS far outweighs the benefits of this FCC decision and the FCC needs to reverse their decision," Dana Deasy, the Defense Department's chief information officer, told the committee.

US Space Force General John Raymond testifies during the Senate Armed Services Committee hearing on the impact of the Federal Communications Commission's Ligado Decision on National Security on Capitol Hill in Washington, DC on May 6, 2020.

Greg Nash | POOL | AFP via Getty Images

WASHINGTON — Pentagon officials on Wednesday slammed a recent Federal Communications Commission decision to allow Ligado to deploy a nationwide mobile broadband network, saying it may disrupt GPS signals crucial to military operations.

"I spent most of my military career, integrating GPS and other space capabilities into everything that we do as a joint force. And today there's absolutely nothing that we do as a joint force that isn't enabled by space and specifically GPS," explained U.S. Space Force Gen. John Raymond in his opening remarks before the Senate Armed Service Committee.

"It [GPS] has revolutionized military operations and it is employed in every step of the kill chain to defeat our adversaries," the nation's top military space officer added.

Dana Deasy, the Defense Department's chief information officer, told the committee that the risk posed by Ligado was significant and unacceptable.

"Ligado and 5G simply do not go together. It is clear to the DoD that the risk to GPS far outweighs the benefits of this FCC decision and the FCC needs to reverse their decision," Deasy said.

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Senator James Inhofe, R-Okla., who chairs the panel, and the top Democrat, Senator Jack Reed, D-R.I., both criticized the FCC decision in their opening remarks.

"I do not think it is a good idea to place at risk the GPS signals that enable our national and economic security for the benefit of one company and its investors," Inhofe said. "This is about much more than risking our military readiness and capabilities. Interfering with GPS will hurt the entire American economy."

Several senators from both parties raised concerns that the committee had yet to hear testimony from the FCC or Ligado.

"There are two sides to this," said Senator Tim Kaine, D-Va., adding that it was difficult to "reverse a decision based upon the presence of one side."

Ligado said Wednesday in a statement that it has gone to great lengths to prevent interference and will provide "a 24/7 monitoring capability, a hotline, a stop buzzer or kill switch" and will "repair or replace at Ligado's cost any government device shown to be susceptible to harmful interference."

Pentagon caught off guard by the decision

Dana Deasy, chief information officer at the Department of Defense, adjusts his glasses during a Senate Armed Services Committee hearing on the national security impact of the FCC Ligado Networks decision in Washington, D.C., U.S., on Wednesday, May 6, 2020.

Shawn Thew | EPA | Bloomberg via Getty Images

Ligado, the wireless satellite venture previously known as LightSquared Inc., emerged from bankruptcy in 2015 and has since been working on a proposal to develop a network reliant on the L-band spectrum that will help telecom companies deploy 5G networks.

Last month, the five-member FCC voted unanimously to allow Ligado Networks to deploy a low-power nationwide 5G network despite objections from federal agencies, including the Departments of Defense and Commerce, as well as major U.S. airlines.

The FCC has defended its decision, saying it included stringent conditions aimed at ensuring GPS systems would not experience harmful interference and has won backing from U.S. Attorney General William Barr and Secretary of State Mike Pompeo.

Ligado's plan will use an L-band spectrum that has the potential to disrupt commercial and military GPS signals, therefore raising concerns that the technology will impact U.S. national security.

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"I will tell you that historically we have a very good working relationship with the FCC when it comes to collaboratively studying requests like this ... In this particular request, there was not a give and take, a back and forth that we typically go through," Deasy told the committee.

"At the end of the day, we were completely caught off guard. When over that weekend in April, the decision was taken by the FCC to go ahead and move forward," he added.

'The DNA of our way of war'

U.S. Marines observe explosives detonate from a safe distance on a demolitions range at Crow Valley, the Philippines, during Amphibious Landing Exercise.

Staff Sgt. Joseph DiGirolamo | US Marine Corps

Michael Griffin, the under secretary of defense for research and engineering, said in his Senate testimony that if Ligado carries out its plan, the United States will experience "a self-inflicted wound on GPS."

"While we set out to redesign and refresh hundreds of millions of GPS receivers in our installed national security and industrial base, others, especially Russia and China, will be quick to take advantage of our mistake by offering replacement systems that are not vulnerable to Ligado's interference," Griffin said.

"A weakened GPS system offers our adversaries the opportunity to replace the United States as the world standard for satellite navigation."

When asked to explain the importance of GPS for the military, the nation's top space commander gave an unwavering response.

"It's the DNA of our way of war. It's systemic in everything that we do," Raymond said.

"The department alone has over a million GPS receivers that are integrated into our space launch vehicles, integrated into our aircraft, tanks on ships on communication networks, and on our most important weapon system, our people. GPS allows us to shoot, move, and communicate with speed, precision and over great distances."

## FCC relaxes federal review rules to allow quicker 5G deployment

- The Federal Communications Commission voted Thursday to relax rules on the national approval process for deploying small cells, the hardware required to support 5G networks. VentureBeat and others reported the measure passed on a 3-2 party-line vote.
- The FCC's ruling means the majority of small cells installed are exempted from review under the National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA) and National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA). It also removes the requirement that applicants file Environmental Assessments (EAs) if a proposed location for 5G infrastructure is in a floodplain, as long as certain conditions are met.
- Proponents say this latest decision from the FCC could speed the deployment of and investment in 5G and its supporting infrastructure, while opponents say it undermines transparency and environmental protections. The rule does not need Congressional approval.

This ruling, another controversial one from the FCC, has split opinion. In a statement, wireless communications association CTIA said the ruling will "spur 5G investment and development" and "help America win the global 5G race."

"The reforms will make a big difference in how quickly these more powerful networks can be installed for consumers and communities across the nation," Meredith Attwell Baker, CTIA President and CEO, said in a statement.

Others are not so sure. Rep. Debbie Dingell, D-MI, sent a letter to FCC commissioner Brendan Carr urging him to reconsider to protect the environmental review process. "Without much thought, your proposed order weakens NEPA's transparency framework in the name of efficiency, yet does not include a single enforceable commitment to ensure that broadband providers will actually build more infrastructure," Dingell wrote. "At its root, NEPA requires the government to consider the environmental impact of its actions and encourage public participation in its decision-making process."

The FCC appears to have made this decision with an eye on speeding up approvals and in bringing down costs for installing the infrastructure. CNET reported that Carr said federal reviews cost providers \$36 million in 2017, and could cost as much as \$241 million this year. And, CNET noted, he said FCC records show less than 1% of cases reviewed resulted in any changes. "The disproportionate fees are the product of a broken and outdated system," Carr said. Although some cities have argued the regulatory review process ensures deployment is done in an equitable way, especially to rural and low-income areas.

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Elected officials and those in the technology industry have spoken frequently of the need for the United States to stay ahead of the rest of the world in 5G deployment, and so far private companies are leading the way after talks of a nationalized service, with AT&T, Verizon, Sprint and T-Mobile all at various stages of rolling the service out in cities nationwide.

With Canada moving quickly to advance 5G innovations, the race is on to provide the service, possibly as part of the country's ongoing discussions about infrastructure upgrades. "People think about infrastructure, they think immediately about brick and mortar," Rep. Yvette Clark, D-NY, said at a Thursday event on the future of smart cities and 5G. "I think that's a significant part of what needs to happen, but broadband is just as important, and the deployment of 5G is just as important."

## Trade Show Floor Robots

ChuangChuang, an intelligent service robot self-developed by Chuangze Intelligent Robot Group (a high-tech enterprise from China), showed off one of the cutest robots at CES. Entering the showroom of Chuangze Group, you could see their latest series of intelligent commercial service robots, intelligent companion robots, intelligent large-screen robots, and intelligent medical robot. (Image source: Chuangze Intelligent Robot Group)



## Is American Manufacturing Falling Out of Love with China?

May 11, 2020

When Peter Navarro, Director of the Office of Trade and Manufacturing Policy for the Trump Administration, wrote his book, *The Coming China Wars: Where they will be fought and how they can be won*, in 2007, he couldn't possibly have predicted the turn of events that has taken place over the past three years. But maybe he had a premonition. Navarro, a business professor at University of California, Irvine, with a PhD in economics from Harvard, was the featured guest speaker at the 2008 annual convention of the American Mold Builders Association (AMBA). We met that year in Puerto Vallarta, Mexico, and Navarro spoke on the topic, "Manufacturing in North America: Opportunity for All." It was a time when American mold manufacturers were waging a battle for work from OEMs that had started taking their mold business to China. Back then, molds could be built at a 70% discount in China compared with the United States.

Having been voted into the World Trade Organization (WTO) in December 2001, China's goals were to engage with new trading partners and raise prospects for a better life for its one billion-plus citizens. It was at that point that the Western world began to have expectations about China that, in hindsight, were very different from China's actual ambitions.

One of America's expectations, I believe, was that by bringing the People's Republic of China into the world of capitalism and democracy, the communism that Mao created over the decades since 1949 would become less attractive. Engaging with China as a trading partner would bring that country to a more democratic way of being. I know that many manufacturing business executives, owners, and managers thought that way. Communism would gradually go away as the Chinese people were exposed to U.S. ideas and manufacturing technologies.

Many U.S. manufacturers were lured to rush into China by the prospect of hundreds of millions of Chinese consumers eager to buy products from U.S. manufacturers. I wrote many articles at the time cautioning American companies that they were entering that market wearing rose-colored glasses. They had visions of the cheap Chinese labor market allowing them to make their products for a fraction of what they would pay in the United States or even in Mexico. Many companies had been opening up manufacturing plants south of the border since the 1970s to take advantage of cheap labor and the close proximity to the U.S. market. Some of the U.S. manufacturers who had gone to Mexico soon were taking even more of their manufacturing to China. Mexico also began to suffer from the China syndrome. It was not far into this trade experiment with the People's Republic of China that U.S. manufacturers began to see cracks developing in the arrangement.

## Can AI Predict the Next Pandemic?

“The international alarm about the COVID-19 pandemic was sounded first not by a human, but by a computer,” Adrian Cho writes for Science. The website HealthMap, run by Boston Children’s Hospital, “uses artificial intelligence (AI) to scan social media, news reports, internet search queries, and other information streams for signs of disease outbreaks. On 30 December 2019, the data-mining program spotted a news report of a new type of pneumonia in Wuhan, China. The one-line email bulletin noted that seven people were in critical condition and rated the urgency at three on a scale of five.”

Can machines predict viral hotspots? As Covid-19 testing proves difficult to conduct on nationwide scales, some are looking for more efficient ways to track outbreaks: Countries have experimented with Bluetooth-driven apps, and a study published in Nature Medicinesuggested an online symptom survey had shown promise in identifying local Covid-19 spread in Israel. AI would seem to be even more advanced and less labor intensive, but epidemiologist John Brownstein, who co-founded HealthMap in 2006, tells Cho it’s best used in conjunction with actual Covid-19 tests.

Whether or not AI is the answer to Covid-19, one researcher who has previously worked to track avian flu tells Cho it can help the next time around: “AI will not be as useful for COVID as it is for the next pandemic,” says [University of Guelph computer scientist Rozita] Dara, who expects it will take about 6 months to develop her system for tracking” Covid-19.

## Chinese Cyberattacks May Be Hindering America’s Vaccine Hunt, Says Report

The Trump administration is accusing Chinese hackers of aggressively attacking a range of American companies and institutions that are working to find a vaccine for the novel coronavirus, The Wall Street Journal reports. U.S. officials told the newspaper the attacks have been happening since the start of January and may have already hindered vaccine research in some cases, and the aggression could be viewed by the Trump White House as “an act of war.” Separately, the Trump administration has also reportedly gather intelligence that Iran or its proxies have targeted some of the same facilities. On Wednesday, the FBI and the Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency are reportedly expected to accuse Beijing of sponsoring cyberattacks intended to steal U.S. vaccine research. The Journal reports that it’s unclear if the damage to some of the research caused by the cyberattacks was intentional or not, and that officials “declined to provide evidence or to detail the intelligence on which their assessments are based.”

## 5 ways flying could change in the future

Will air travel in the post-COVID-19 world include backwards middle seats and touchless cabins with in-flight janitors?

Those are some of the ideas proposed to keep flyers safe. The airline industry has been hit hard by the coronavirus pandemic, with travel down an estimated 95 percent. When the industry recovers and people begin to fly again, safety is a priority for airlines and the companies that serve them.

“Airline travel is going to look and feel different going forward,” said Paul Hartshorn Jr., national communications chairman for the Association of Professional Flight Attendants.

Here are five ways air travel could change, as announced by airlines or proposed by companies that work with them.

### 1. Continued social distancing measures

On May 4, the U.S. Travel Industry released new health-focused guidelines for travel, called “Travel in the New Normal” and developed with the help of a task force of physicians and travel leaders. The guidelines focus on six main areas for travel businesses: adapting operations or redesigning public spaces for the protection of employees and customers, implementing touchless solutions, enhancing sanitation procedures, promoting health screening measures for employees, establishing procedures for when employees tests positive for COVID-19, and following best practices for safe food and beverage service.

“We want political leaders and the public alike to see that our industry is setting a very high standard for reducing the risk of coronavirus in our businesses, and that the practices in place to achieve that standard are consistent through every phase of the travel experience,” said Roger Dow, U.S. Travel Association President and CEO, in a press release. “As travel reopens, travelers need the confidence that safety measures are in place from their departure to their return home.”

Airlines have already been implementing social distancing and cleaning measures this spring. Several airlines, such as JetBlue, Delta, and Southwest, are limiting the number of passengers on each flight. Delta has blocked middle seats, United is limiting seat selections, and both are boarding from rear to front. Airlines such as Delta and Southwest have released videos demonstrating new procedures for disinfecting planes. United is testing touchless kiosks for printing bag tags and checking bags, and Southwest is installing shields at ticket counters and gate podiums. Frontier Airlines will begin temperature screenings June 1, using touchless thermometers.

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## 2. Face coverings will be required

The CDC recommends people wear cloth face coverings in public settings to slow the spread of the virus. As a result, many airlines have mandated that staff and passengers wear masks. JetBlue was the first major U.S. carrier to require that all passengers wear face coverings when flying, launching the policy May 4. After that, several other airlines followed suit, announcing mandatory face covering policies of their own beginning in May.

Hartshorn, an American Airlines flight attendant, said he is relieved that passengers will have to wear masks on his airline beginning May 11.

"I don't think we'll get back to the normal that we knew last year," he said, "But if we continue covering our faces, wearing gloves, [and] social distancing to the extent possible on an aircraft, then I think that, hopefully, we'll get back to some semblance of normalcy," he said.

## 3. Seating could be modified

Italian company Aviointeriors has proposed social distancing solutions for airline seats. The "Janus" seat is a backwards middle seat (pictured above) that ensures "the maximum isolation between passengers seated next to each other," the company wrote in a press release. The seat is surrounded on three sides by a high shield that "prevents the breath propagation to occupants of adjacent seats," the company wrote.

The company also proposed "Glasssafe," a three-sided shield (pictured below) made of transparent material that attaches to existing airplane seats. The shield, the company wrote, works by "creating an isolated volume around the passenger in order to avoid or minimize contacts and interactions via air between passenger and passenger."

## 4. More sanitation throughout airports and onboard

Airline marketing strategy firm SimpliFlying has mapped out how the entire flying process can be made cleaner in a report called "The Rise of Sanitised Travel." The changes include touchless cabins with sealed meals, in-flight janitors, immunity passports, disinfection tunnels, and "sanitaged" bags, in which luggage undergoes a fogging or UV disinfection process.

The report details how an immunity — or health — passport would be required to fly, said Shashank Nigam, founder and CEO of SimpliFlying.

"It's literally something that says you are fit to fly today — it's not a guarantee that [COVID-19] will not happen to you again or that you won't be a carrier again," he said.

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When passengers get to the airport, they would go through a disinfection tunnel curbside where they'd "get sprayed by a mist — which is not harmful to you at all — but it ensures once you are through this, you do not carry any germs," he said.

Passengers would have their temperatures checked.

"I expect, in the future, when we go through the disinfection tunnel and our temperature is automatically taken, our boarding pass on the mobile phone will be automatically updated with our temperature visible right next to the boarding pass," Nigam said.

Touchscreens at kiosks will be a thing of the past as passengers use their mobile phones when checking in, he said. Passengers would board individually, rather than congregating at the gate, he said, and then social distance on the jet bridge, which could also become a second disinfection tunnel.

Airlines would appoint an in-flight janitor on planes, Nigam said, whose sole focus is cleaning high-touch areas such as lavatory handles. Touchless cabins will emerge, he said.

"People will not want to touch the screen in front of them or the inflight magazines," he said. "We expect the end of the print inflight magazine and everything is going to go digital."

Meals in the air will be pre-packaged, Nigam said.

"Airlines will want to reduce the literal interaction between customers and their crew, so they are more likely to package meals individually," he said.

A lot of the recommendations in the report are already being implemented at various airports worldwide, Nigam said, from sanitizing bags to temperature checks to airline crews wearing personal protection equipment.

"We expect most of them to be adopted to varying degrees," he said. "Some airports might adopt 90 percent of it, some airports might adopt 50 percent of it. But we do expect a large majority of them to be adopted in some form or another."

A newly formed Transport Health Authority would oversee it all, he said.

## 5. Ticketing and rates may change

Liana Corwin, consumer travel expert for flight tracker app Hopper, said airlines will need to consider the new mindset of future travelers.

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“Flexibility is going to be very key to travelers going forward,” she said.

According to a recent Hopper study on how COVID-19 has impacted leisure travel, flexibility has become a “critical factor” for travelers when deciding to fly. More than 50 percent of travelers indicated that the ability to cancel a trip or change the date after booking with a minimum penalty was most important when booking.

“We may see airlines act in ways that we haven’t seen them before as they adapt to the new demands of the customers,” she said. “And we’re already seeing that.”

During the pandemic, airlines extended their cancellation and change fee waivers in an unprecedented way, Corwin said. For example, Delta is allowing passengers to rebook travel for up to two years, she said.

While airfare prices traditionally climb this time of year, airfare is down 27 to 33 percent, she said. For example, travelers can find airfare from Boston to San Diego for \$226 roundtrip in late June and early July and from Boston to Tampa, Fla., for \$156 roundtrip in late August, Corwin said.

“We definitely expect these prices to continue to stay low, at least in the near-term,” Corwin said. “It’s hard to say for certain exactly what it will look like at the very end of the year, given that there’s so much unprecedented uncertainty in the market.”

## ‘ZOOM FATIGUE’ IS REAL. HERE’S WHY YOU’RE FEELING IT, AND WHAT YOU CAN DO ABOUT IT.

For those confined to their homes lately, chatting by video has become a crucial way to stay in touch from afar. Platforms such as Zoom, Microsoft Teams, or Skype can be used to hold work meetings remotely, catch up with friends and family, or even celebrate a birthday.

But for all its benefits, our reliance upon video during isolation has spawned a surprising new problem: Being on so many video conferences is exhausting. That’s because many of the nonverbal cues that we typically rely upon during in-person conversations—eye contact, subtle shifts that indicate someone is about to speak—are out the window, says Laura Dudley, a behavior analyst at Northeastern University. The phenomenon has become known as Zoom fatigue, and Dudley, who is an associate clinical professor and director of the applied behavior analysis programs, says she’s experienced it herself.

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“At one point I was using five different video platforms to keep up with work, classes, and family and friends—my head was spinning,” she says.

And, even if you’re only using one platform, missing those nonverbal cues can be taxing on our brainpower, Dudley says.

Have you noticed that it’s impossible to maintain eye contact with someone over video? In order to provide eye contact to the person (or people) on your screen, you need to look at your camera. In order to receive it, you need to look at their eyes on your screen.

“You might find yourself toggling back and forth between your webcam and the other person, but this is not the same as sustained, joint eye contact between two people,” Dudley says. “And keep in mind that the other person is probably doing the same toggling.”

You may also have experienced long periods of silence during which no one is talking, followed by people talking all at once, over each other.

During in-person conversations, a person’s gestures—such as a sharp intake of breath, leaning forward, or making eye contact with someone—indicate to us that they’re about to speak, Dudley says. During a video call with a dozen people, such cues are lost, leading to disjointed conversation, or people opting not to speak at all, she says.

The physical separation also makes video calls challenging, as there may be something happening off screen that’s affecting a person’s behavior on screen, Dudley says.

“It’s important to note that while we are sharing a conversation, we are not sharing physical space together,” she says. “A piece of the puzzle may be missing for you, so to speak.”

Many video-calling platforms show a person’s own face in addition to those of the people with whom they’re speaking. This has the effect of “putting a giant mirror in front of you during a meeting,” Dudley says. And, without being able to establish eye contact, it’s hard to know when people are and aren’t looking at you. As such, people are spending a lot of time worrying about and checking whether they look approachable and professional, she says.

“It’s draining to feel like you have to be ‘on’ for the entire meeting,” Dudley says.

Finally, relying upon video calls for work may make it difficult to enjoy using them to relax and catch up with family and friends after work. The challenge can be explained by a behavioral principle called satiation, Dudley says.

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## Trump extends telecom order behind Huawei ban until May 2021

Huawei and ZTE won't be resuming US business any time soon.

Jon Fingas, @jonfingas  
May 13, 2020

Huawei isn't about to get a reprieve from the US trade ban any time soon. President Trump has extended until May 2021 the executive order barring American companies from buying and using telecom equipment that represents an "unacceptable" national security risk. The order was key to the Commerce Department adding Huawei to its Entity List and effectively banning the tech giant (along with rivals like ZTE) from operating in the country.

It's not shocking that the order would carry on for a while longer. Trump and legislators have continued to kick Huawei out of US networks whenever possible, and tensions with China remain high. However, this still leaves Huawei and peers without many options. They'll have to avoid dealing with US companies, of course, but this will also force them to go without Google apps on newer phones and otherwise jump through hoops to maintain some of their business. In short: don't expect to buy a Huawei phone stateside any time soon.

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The term refers to the overconsumption of a reinforcer that leads to that reinforcer losing its value. If you normally logged on to Zoom to relax and chat with long-distance friends, but now use the platform throughout the day to join stressful meetings at work, the platform loses its value as a reinforcer. Rather than seeking out opportunities to Zoom with friends and family, you may find yourself avoiding those opportunities at the end of the day.

"We used to take breaks from people by spending time on our gadgets," Dudley says. "Now, we take breaks from our gadgets by seeking out real, live human connection." There is some good news, though. Dudley has tips for managing Zoom fatigue:

Disconnect when you need to.

If you can, schedule time in between virtual meetings. Figure out what you need in that moment and do that. If you need time alone, take it. If you need time with a real, live person, seek out the opportunity while keeping safe. If you just need to move around a bit, do that.

Practice mindfulness. Meditate. Do yoga.

Have compassion for yourself and for others.

Establish daily routines. Your day should be different from your evening, and your weekday should be different from your weekend.

"When your meeting ends, ask yourself what you need," Dudley says, "and don't forget to show yourself some compassion."

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"The more I want to get something done the less I call it work."

– Richard Bach