

Dear Airline Representatives

RE: Use of CPAP devices for flight crew in quarantine from Monday 29th March 2021

NSW has been successful in limiting the spread of COVID-19 into the community through the mandatory quarantine of returning passengers and arriving flight crew. However, concerns have been raised regarding the risk of respiratory devices including CPAP devices contributing to, or causing the spread of, COVID-19.

Taking into consideration the work health and safety requirements for flight crew, NSW Health has developed a solution that will enable flight crew to continue to use their CPAP devices whilst minimising the risk of transmission of COVID-19 to quarantine workers.

NSW Health would like to advise that the use of CPAP devices by flight crew will be permitted in hotel quarantine under the following conditions from **Monday 29th March 2021**:

- Flight crew declare CPAP device usage when screened at the airport
- If a flight crew member requires continued use of a CPAP device, they will be directed to the Special Health Accommodation (SHA) which is located at the Meriton Suites Mascot Central near the airport.
- Transport to the Special Health Accommodation will be provided by the NSW Patient Transport Service (PTS)
- A dedicated floor in the Special Health Accommodation has been allocated specifically for flight crew requiring the use of CPAP. No other passengers will be allocated to this floor.

While in the Special Health Accommodation, flight crew members:

- will be escorted to and from their rooms by nursing staff in full personal protective clothing
- will not be interrupted for clinical assessment or observations during their stay
- will have second daily welfare checks conducted electronically by nursing staff
- will be issued with a food package on arrival for the first 48hrs
- are required to use the CPAP device in the bedroom with the door and windows closed
- must keep the air conditioning on in the apartment at all times
- must keep exhaust fans in the laundry and bathroom on at all times with doors to remain open

Please note the use of nebulisers will not be permitted whilst in Hotel Quarantine. Puffers and spacers are permitted.

NSW Health is encouraging airlines to provide advance notice to SLHD-SydAirport-Screening@health.nsw.gov.au of any flight crew member using these devices and advise of any known food preferences, allergies or requirements. This will ensure we can effectively manage and cater for flight crew on their arrival to Australia.

Please note, on departure, it will remain the responsibility of the Airline to make transport arrangements for the transfer of flight crew from the Special Health Accommodation back to Sydney Airport Departures – Gate K via their designated transport provider.

We appreciate your patience whilst this arrangement could be established and thank you for working with us to reduce the spread of COVID-19 to the NSW community.

Kind Regards

Vicki Manning

Director, Operations, State Health Emergency Operations Centre