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The Philippines' only shipping and transport guide

ISSN 0118-1483 MONDAY December 28, 2020 VOL. 25 NO.104 P30.00

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Mactan-Cebu airport handled 44% less freight in Jan-Oct

- Cargo volume handled by Mactan-Cebu International Airport dropped 44% in the first 10 months of 2020 from the same period in 2019
- Flights decreased 69% while passenger traffic contracted 75% year-on-year

from Mactan-Cebu International Airport Authority (MCIAA) showed. Domestic cargoes reached 24.272 million kg in the period January to October 2020, 49% lower than the 47.543 million kg posted in the same period last year. International cargoes likewise declined 28% to 10.804 million kg from 14.939 million kg in the first 10 months of 2019.

CARGO volume handled by Mactan-Cebu International Airport (MCIA) dropped 44% to 35.076 million kilograms (kg) in the first 10 months of 2020 from 62.482 million kg recorded in the same period in 2019.

Domestic and international airlines started suspending flights out of the country's second busiest gateway in mid-March as the government implemented travel restrictions to prevent the spread of COVID-19 in the country. Only repatriation

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CAAP airports on heightened alert for increase in holiday travelers

- *Civil Aviation Authority of the Philippines (CAAP)-operated airports on heightened alert over increase in volume of air passengers during the holidays*
- *Passengers must present valid health forms and other requirements, and download the contact tracing application Traze before arrival at the airport*

AIRPORTS operated by the Civil Aviation Authority of the Philippines (CAAP) are now on heightened alert in anticipation of the expected increase in the volume of air passengers during the Christmas and New Year season.

This is part of CAAP's "Oplan Biyaheng Ayos: Implementation of Heightened Alert Status during the Pasko 2020," which is running from December 16, 2020 to January 5, 2021.

Under the oplan, all 12 area centers handling CAAP airports accepting commercial flights are observing added security measures and additional deployment of service and security personnel to ensure safe, reliable, and convenient airport operations as returning overseas Filipinos (ROFs), civilians, and tourists travel for the holiday season.



CAAP said concerned government agencies operating at the airports, including the Office of Transportation Security and the Philippine National Police Aviation Security Group, will also deploy personnel in areas of concern to ensure smooth passenger flow while strictly implementing new normal minimum health protocols.

These protocols include mandatory wearing of face mask and face shield, social distancing, temperature checks, provision of foot baths, hand sanitizing stations, and routine disinfection and inspection of airport facilities.

With new protocols and requirements brought by the COVID-19 pandemic, CAAP is urging passengers to be ready to present valid health forms and local government unit (LGU) requirements to avoid inconvenience upon entering the airport passenger terminal.

Passengers are also reminded to download contact tracing application Traze ahead of their arrival at the airport for faster scanning of QR (quick response) codes in entry/exit points and designated areas. Since late November, passengers in all airports in the Philippines have been required to use the contact tracing application.

Additionally, travelers are reminded

not to bring prohibited items into the airport and to stow all belongings in one's carry-on baggage for faster processing at screening checkpoints.

As of December 21, there are 43 airports in the country whose LGUs have issued orders categorically supporting the resumption of commercial airport

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Cebu Pacific commercially launches antigen test before boarding

- *Cebu Pacific has commercially launched its Test Before Boarding (TBB) process for passengers flying from Manila after conducting a pilot run with the local government of General Santos*
- *Cebu Pacific's antigen test costs P700, the lowest rate in the industry*
- *The TBB testing facility at the Ninoy Aquino International Airport Terminal 3 is now open for walk-ins from 2 a.m. to 2 p.m. daily*
- *Cebu Pacific also offers RT-PCR test for P3,300 for those traveling to local and international destinations that require negative RT-PCR test results prior to entry*

CEBU PACIFIC has commercially launched its Test Before Boarding (TBB) process for passengers flying from Manila after conducting its pilot run with the local government of General Santos.

TBB requires Cebu Pacific passengers to undergo antigen test just hours before the scheduled time of departure, with results released within 30 minutes. On December 3, Cebu Pacific started the pilot run of its TBB for passengers from Manila bound to General Santos.

In a statement, Cebu Pacific said it offers its antigen test for P700, the lowest rate in the industry.

The TBB testing facility at the Ninoy Aquino International Airport (NAIA) Terminal 3 is now open for walk-ins from 2 a.m. to 2 p.m. daily.

Cebu Pacific passengers have to regis-

ter onsite and pay the fee directly to the airline's diagnostic partner, Philippine Airport Diagnostic Laboratory (PADL).

Throughout the pilot run which started on December 3, Cebu Pacific tested a total of 1,143 passengers, three of whom tested positive and were not allowed to proceed with their flight.

Only those who tested negative were allowed to board the aircraft. Subsequently, based on the data provided by the local government of General Santos, passengers were retested after their seven-day quarantine and results were still negative, showing consistency with the earlier results of the TBB process.

"Following the successful TBB pilot, Cebu Pacific is ready to offer this option to all their passengers. We are urging every Juan to take advantage of this convenient alternative, especially since the testing site is strategically located at the airport, making the whole process easy and hassle-free for our residents," General Santos mayor Ronnel Rivera said.

Apart from General Santos, the local governments of Butuan, Dipolog, and Pagadian also accept negative antigen test results as a pre-travel requirement.

Cebu Pacific passengers going to these destinations may also avail of the TBB beginning December 18.

DOH rules as of October 6 allow the use of rapid antigen testing as an alternative to real-time reverse transcription polymerase chain reaction testing (RT-PCR) tests for suspected COVID-19 cases, including symptomatic and asymptomatic close contacts who fit the definition.

Antigen tests may also be used for probable cases in a community or hospi-

operations in their areas of jurisdiction.

Some airports, however, while allowing commercial flights to resume, are subject to different documentary and passenger LGU restrictions.

Only six of CAAP-operated airports are still not allowing commercial flights and these are the airports of Camiguin, Puerto Princesa, Roxas, Tuguegarao, San Vicente, and Sanga-Sanga.

tal setting with insufficient PCR testing capacity, places where a quick turnaround time is needed for patients, or during incidents of a community outbreak "for quicker case finding."

To date, a number of local and international destinations require negative RT-PCR test results prior to entry. As such, Cebu Pacific is also offering RT-PCR tests for only P3,300 via its three partner laboratories, namely PADL, Health Metrics, Inc., and Safeguard DNA Diagnostics Inc.

Passengers booked on Cebu Pacific and Cebgo can choose and book appointments via <https://bit.ly/CEBFlightReminders>.

"We remain committed to making flights affordable for every Juan and seeing that testing is required by a number of destinations at the moment, we have partnered with accredited laboratories that may offer affordable testing options. We

look forward to the day trust and confidence in air travel have been restored, but until then, let us all work together towards that," Cebu Pacific vice president for Marketing and Customer Experience Candice Iyog said.

Domestic tourists may also avail of a subsidized RT-PCR test at the UP Philippine General Hospital, wherein 50% of the original cost will be subsidized by the Department of Tourism through the Tourism Promotions Board, leaving only P900 to be paid for by the passenger. Those who wish to apply for this must register five

days before their trip via www.tpb.gov.ph/rtrpcrphtravel.

Cebu Pacific said TBB is just one initiative in its multi-layered approach to safety. These include extensive daily disinfection of aircraft, High Efficiency Particulate Air filters on board that can filter out 99.99% of viruses, frequent cleaning of passenger surfaces at the airport and inflight, and enhanced self-service online portals so travelers can easily manage their flights.

Strict contactless flight procedures are also in place, such as boarding pass scanning, required online check-in and self-bag tag capabilities.

Cebu Pacific currently operates flights to destinations such as Boracay, Bohol, Cebu, Davao, Cagayan de Oro, Bacolod, Iloilo and Palawan. It also operates flights to six international destinations including Hong Kong, Singapore, Japan and Dubai.

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Mactan-Cebu airport handled 44% less freight...

Continued from page 1

tion and cargo flights have been operational since. More flights were allowed starting June, following the easing of community quarantines nationwide, including in Cebu.

For the period January to October 2020, flights at MCI A decreased 69% to 27,569 flights from 88,964 flights in the same period last year.

Domestic flights fell 68% to 21,146 flights from 65,539 flights last year, while international flights were 73% less with 6,423 flights recorded compared to 23,425 flights last year.

In terms of passengers, MCI A saw a 75% decline in the first 10 months of the year to 2.642 million passengers from 10.459 million passengers recorded in the same period last year.

Domestic passengers decreased 73% to 1.849 million from 6.938 million while international passengers fell 77.5% to 792,470 from 3.521 million last year.

Since November, all passenger and aircraft operations at MCI A have been consolidated at Terminal 1 (T1) except for international arrivals which remain at Terminal 2 (T2).

MCI A terminal operator GMR Megawide Cebu Airport Corp. earlier said the consolidation will streamline operations and maximize terminal efficiencies during this period of reduced aircraft movement and passenger traffic.

T1 had been dedicated to domestic airlines since the second half of 2018 when T2 was inaugurated and designated the terminal for international flights. – *Roumina Pablo*

All flights from UK suspended over fears of COVID-19 mutation

- The Philippines will temporarily suspend all flights from the United Kingdom (UK) from December 24 until December 31, 2020
- The temporary suspension follows that of other countries which have halted flights from the UK amid fears of a new variant of SARS-CoV-2, the virus which causes the coronavirus disease
- Outbound travel to the UK should subject to exit protocols between the Philippines and UK

Global dredging firm nabs \$1.7B contract for Bulacan airport project

- San Miguel Corp. (SMC) awarded dredging contractor Boskalis Philippines Inc., the US\$1.73-billion contract to develop land for the airport site
- Construction of the P740-billion Manila International Airport project in Bulacan is set to start in the first quarter of 2021
- The airport will be designed to withstand large earthquakes, local typhoon conditions, and future sea level rise

CONSTRUCTION of the P740-billion Manila International Airport (MIA) project in Bulacan is set to take off in the first quarter of 2021 after San Miguel Corp. (SMC) awarded Boskalis Philippines, Inc.

a US\$1.73-billion contract to undertake land development works on the airport complex site.

SMC president and chief operating officer Ramon S. Ang said Dutch firm Royal Boskalis Westminster N.V., through its wholly owned subsidiary Boskalis Philippines Inc., has been chosen to carry out the land development.

“Our selection of a global giant in dredging shows how ready, willing, and committed we are to do everything necessary to make sure this airport project is developed properly and sustainably. We will make sure it will serve and benefit Filipinos, our host province Bulacan, and the rest of the Philippines, for many generations to come,” Ang said in a statement.

THE Philippines will temporarily suspend all flights from the United Kingdom (UK) starting December 24, 12:01 a.m. until December 31, 2020.

The temporary suspension follows that of other countries which have halted flights from the UK amid fears of a new

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BOC-NAIA opens 2 Customer Care Centers

The Bureau of Customs has inaugurated on December 22 two new Customer Care Centers—one at the collection district of Ninoy Aquino International Airport (NAIA) and another at the Central Mail Exchange Center (CMEC).

The two CCCs will serve as one-stop shops for Customs-related transactions and will be manned by a team of NAIA Customs service officers.

The Bureau of Customs (BOC) has inaugurated on December 22 two new Customer Care Centers (CCC)—one at

the collection district of Ninoy Aquino International Airport (NAIA) and one at the Central Mail Exchange Center (CMEC).

The BOC-NAIA CCC will serve as a one-stop shop or central hub for Customs-related transactions in NAIA such as document receiving and releasing, payment, document tracking, and general stakeholder information while the CMEC CCC will house parcel-related transactions such as parcel tracking, shipment information, follow-ups, parcel inquiries

and concerns to further assist NAIA stakeholders in managing their businesses in the port.

The NAIA CCC is the 16th out of the 17 collection districts to inaugurate a CCC while CMEC is the second support to open one.

The CCCs will be manned by a team of NAIA Customs service officers.

Still to open its CCC is Manila International Container Port.

BOC has been actively establishing CCCs nationwide to enhance trade fa-

cilitation and to comply with Republic Act No. 11032, or the Ease of Doing Business and Efficient Government Service Delivery Act.

The centers are also in compliance with the agency's zero-contact policy discouraging face-to-face transactions to lessen opportunities for corruption.

Fifteen more out of the 17 BOC collection districts have already established their own CCCs. These are the Port of Manila, Legazpi, Batangas, Surigao, Subic, Clark, Zamboanga, Davao, Limay, San Fernando, Iloilo, Tacloban, Cebu, Cagayan De Oro, and Aparri.

PAL opens antigen testing facility in Pasay

- *Philippine Airlines opened an antigen testing facility at PAL Gate 3 in Pasay City for passengers required to present antigen test results for their flights*
- *Negative antigen test results are required from travelers by the local government units of General Santos City and Butuan City*

PHILIPPINE Airlines (PAL) has opened an antigen testing facility at PAL Gate 3 on Andrews Avenue in Pasay City for passengers required to present antigen test results for their flights.

This as negative antigen test results are a requirement by both local govern-

ment units of General Santos City and Butuan City for travelers to be allowed entry into their jurisdictions, PAL said in an advisory.

The tests will be conducted by Department of Health (DOH)-accredited partner Detoxicare Molecular Diagnostics Laboratory from 1 am to 7 am daily (Mondays to Sundays, including holidays) via drive-through or walk-in. Passengers must be tested no later than two hours before departure time.

The antigen test result is valid within 72 hours before departure for General Santos, and five days before departure for Butuan. The test costs P700 with results released within 30 minutes.

Upon entering the facility, passengers must present their ID, PAL ticket, and QR code to the PAL Passenger Profile Health Declaration (PPHD) indicating successful registration.

The PPHD form is downloadable from <https://bit.ly/PALDomPPHD> and <https://bit.ly/PALIntPPHD> and must be filled out to five days before the flight.

Passengers will be asked to fill out a health assessment checklist in compliance with DOH requirements for entering public places.

DOH as of October 6 allows the use of rapid antigen testing as an alternative to real-time reverse transcription poly-

merase chain reaction testing (RT-PCR) for suspected COVID-19 cases, including symptomatic and asymptomatic close contacts who fit the definition.

Antigen tests may also be used for probable cases in a community or hospital setting with insufficient PCR testing capacity, places where a quick turnaround time is needed for patients, or during incidents of a community outbreak "for quicker case finding."

Aside from the antigen testing facility, PAL has a testing facility at the Philippine Airlines Learning Center in Ermita, Manila offering RT-PCR services for P3,300, with results released within 24 hours.

All flights from UK suspended...

variant of SARS-CoV-2, the virus which causes the coronavirus disease.

Presidential spokesperson Harry Roque in a statement said all passengers who have been in the UK within 14 days immediately preceding arrival to the Philippines, including those merely in transit, are temporarily restricted from entering the country during the same period.

On the other hand, passengers already

in transit from the UK and those who have been to the UK within 14 days immediately preceding arrival to the Philippines and who arrive before 12:01 a.m. of December 24 should not be subject to entry restriction but should undergo stricter quarantine and testing protocols.

Such protocols include an absolute 14-day quarantine period at the Athlete's Village in New Clark City, notwith-

Continued from page 3

standing a negative real-time reverse transcription polymerase chain reaction testing result.

Outbound travel to the UK should likewise be subject to the existing exit protocols of the Philippines and the UK.



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