Safety and air travel

Travel confidently with the latest research

American Airlines
Clean Commitment

A recent study commissioned by the United States Transportation Command found that, in over 300 aerosol release tests repeatedly releasing 180 million particles simulating virus particle dispersion and penetration into 777-200s and 767-300s, a cabin-wide average of 99.99% of aerosol particles were filtered out on average in less than 6 minutes.

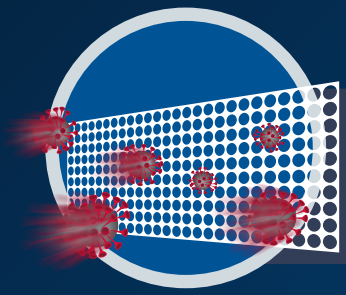
United States Transportation Command

The risk of disease transmission during air travel is significantly lower than during normal daily life.

Boeing and University of Arizona

"Forward-facing seat configurations create a barrier to transmission similar to clear plastic barriers seen in many businesses today."

Boeing and University of Arizona

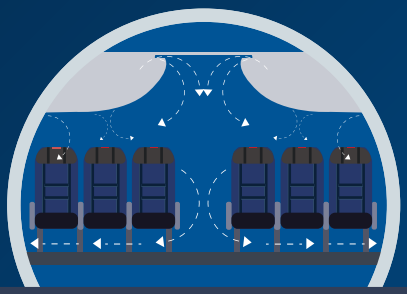


Airplanes exchange the entire volume of air 20-30 times per hour and have filters that can capture particles 10 times smaller than the COVID-19 virus.

Boeing, University of Arizona, NASA and the National Center for Biotechnology Information

Airports have an average of 6-10 air changes an hour, which is better than the typical 5 air exchanges per hour of the average building.

Boeing and University of Arizona



Modeling shows the airflow pattern, exchange rate, HEPA filtration, and forward-facing seats create conditions equivalent to 7 to 15 feet of social distancing, even for adjacent seats.

Boeing and University of Arizona

"Another report describes that a symptomatic patient and his pre-symptomatic wife, both of whom tested positive for COVID-19, traveled on a 15-hour international flight with 350 passengers. Both patients wore masks, and no other passengers subsequently tested positive for COVID-19."

Harvard's "Face Mask Use in Air Travel"

A recent modeling study estimates the universal use of surgical masks in settings with the ventilation rates of an aircraft may reduce infection risk from respiratory particles to less than 1%.

Harvard's "Face Mask Use in Air Travel"