

Memo



To: All Crew in Cork & Shannon
From: Eddie Wilson
Re: Possible Winter Season Covid Closures
Date: 8 Sept 2020

Dear Colleagues,

As you will be well aware, the Covid-19 crisis continues to badly damage our passenger loads and our operations. These challenges are exacerbated in Ireland where Government mismanagement of our Green List has kept many EU countries on a quarantine list, even though these countries – like our major markets in the UK, Germany, Sweden and Poland – have lower Covid rates than Ireland. We are now facing into a winter in Cork and Shannon with no outbound business travel and severely reduced inbound leisure traffic.

Despite repeated industry calls on the Government to add these lower Covid EU countries to Ireland's Green List, they have ignored these pleas, and our forward bookings this winter in Cork and Shannon, and to a lesser extent Dublin, have suffered irreparable harm.

The Govt have promised a review of the Green List restrictions on Mon 14th Sept next, but you should be aware that if these quarantine restrictions from EU states are not lifted before the end of Sept, we will have no alternative but to close our Cork and Shannon bases, on a temporary basis for this winter season. In those circumstances, all pilots and cabin crew will be put on unpaid leave from the end of Oct (you may be able to benefit from Government support schemes).

We understand the EU Commission will introduce a new travel policy for EU member states from mid-Sept, and we are hopeful, but not confident, that the Irish Government will finally come into line with the EU's safe air travel policy, which successfully allowed air travel to restart across Europe from 1 July last, while delivering lower Covid rates than our Government and NPHET have here in Ireland. Sadly, Ireland did not follow these ECDC guidelines but continued to impose quarantines which failed to halt the recent rise in Covid cases.

We will do our best to reopen these bases from March next year - if, but only if - these failed travel restrictions to other EU states have been lifted in time for traffic to recover. Ryanair will continue to operate flights into Cork and Shannon from bases elsewhere, such as London Stansted, Manchester and Liverpool, but the frequency of these flights will be significantly reduced for the winter season, and for as long as these defective quarantine restrictions remain in place.

I appreciate this will come as a major shock and disappointment to all of you who have worked so hard since July to restore our flights and services, but bookings and loads continue to be weak and we cannot sustain flights from Cork and Shannon when the Govt ignores the EU safe travel policy and instead actively bans our customers from flying without 14 days of quarantine (except in the case of Micheál Martin's visits to Brussels when he observed no quarantine at all).

We will keep trying to persuade the Govt to change its failed Green List quarantine which bans visitors from other EU countries like the UK, and Germany, which have lower Covid case rates than Ireland. If this is successful and the green list is updated, then we are hopeful that this threat of winter closure of our Cork and Shannon bases can be averted, and we will keep you updated on developments.

Regards,

Eddie Wilson
CEO – Ryanair DAC