



CC/ATCG/Operations/2021/03

Date : 25.04.2021

The Chairman
Airports Authority of India
CHQ, Rajiv Gandhi Bhawan
New Delhi – 110003

Subject: No ATCO will undergo BA test due to COVID-19 spread.

Sir,

Reference may please be made to our letter no. CC/ATCG/Operations/2021/01 dt. 15.04.2021 for suspension of Breath Analyser Test for Air Traffic Controllers.

Presently, our nation is facing the second deadly wave of COVID-19 spread and we have crossed the mark of 3.49 lacs cases per day. The recent reports hint at second wave to be more severe and causing massive casualties and spreading very fast.

During BA test, the machines can not spread COVID-19 virus but the environment in which BA test is conducted needs to be given due consideration. BA test is conducted in a small closed room for ATCOs, while undergoing BA test, mask is removed and exhalation is done in BA test machine. This process can release droplets inside room, which may affect subsequent officer undergoing BA test. The latest research shows that COVID-19 virus is airborne and spreading through air also.

We have already requested to DGCA for suspension of BA test in view of safety of ATCOs, their family members and smooth run of operations but no action has been taken by DGCA. Looking into the current situation of COVID spread, no. of increasing deaths, no bed availability in hospitals, shortage of medical supplies like medicines and oxygen, our controllers are under tremendous stress.

In view of the above facts ATC Guild India is informing your good office that, " **ATCOs at all stations will not be undergoing the Breath Analyser test from 26.04.2021 till COVID spread comes under control in our country**". Though it is AAI management's prerogative to take an ATCO on duty who is not undergoing BA test but we assure you that all our controllers will abide by all the regulations promulgated by DGCA and AAI for safe aircraft operations as we were doing before and after the introduction of BA test.

Assuring you our best cooperation.

Regards,

(Alok Yadav)
General Secretary

Copy to:

1. The DGCA, Opposite Safdarjung Airport, Aurobindo Marg, New Delhi – 110003.
2. The Member (ANS), AAI, Rajiv Gandhi Bhawan, New Delhi – 110003.
3. All Regional Secretaries/Branch Secretaries, ATC Guild India to ensure the compliance.