



District 142

Continental • ExpressJet • Micronesia • Gulfstream • CommutAir

Weekly Update



The Update Message from the International Association of Machinists and Aerospace Workers representing Flight Attendants in the 2339 Local Lodges

Friday, May 1, 2009

The IAM is pleased to see that the company has taken to heart at least some of the suggestions that the union has made about the safety of our Flight Attendant membership in regards to the current Swine Flu crisis. Continental began provisioning gloves onboard flights after our repeated discussions with them regarding our concern for our member's safety.

Although the union believes that this is a step in the right direction, the union's position is that there is still much more that could and should be done for our member's health & safety.

The IAM's position is that Continental should provide the following protections:

1. Flight attendants should be allowed to wear masks at their discretion on flights entering and departing the country of Mexico.
2. Make sure that all clinics are sufficiently stocked with anti viral medications and prepared for our work force.
3. Allow trips to be dropped at the flight attendant's discretion without threat of discipline for parents of children when schools are closed due to H1N1.
4. Crew members infected with H1N1 should be allowed to remain at home to recuperate and to prevent the possibility of infecting co-workers and/or passengers, without any fear of being disciplined.

These unprecedented times call for proactive leadership. We hope that Continental will agree that these steps will help to protect our members as well as Continental's customers.

Continental Airlines temporarily reduces the capacity of flights to Mexico beginning May 4, 2009. According to Continental, this reduction is approximately 50 percent, measured by available seat miles (ASMs) as compared to their original May 2009 flight schedule. Refer to Continental "Employee Bulletin No. 9" for more detail. If you are scheduled to work a flight to or from Mexico, and if you are affected by this reduction, please consult with one of your union representatives ASAP so they may assist directing you to the appropriate section of your contract for trip and/or pay protection that is available to members in this situation.

The Union and ExpressJet agreed to a new procedure for picking up advertised trips during our most recent Scheduling meeting. Effective immediately, flight attendants that would like to pick up an advertised trip must first try to pick up through the computer. If you are unable to pick-up the advertised trip via the computer system, please note the computer generated error code and then call Scheduling for assistance with picking up the trip. If the Scheduler asks that you try picking up the trip via the computer system, inform them of the error code you received from your prior attempt and the scheduler will assign the trip to your line, if the trip is still available. Flight attendants will no longer receive confirmation telephone calls from Scheduling regarding trips advertised. *If you advertise a trip, it will be given away unless you remove it from advertising.*

Continental Flight Attendants please be aware that for the past two months the FAA has been conducting random audits of your Inflight manuals. The FAA has advised Continental that an unacceptable number of flight attendant manuals are not in compliance. There is a possibility that audits may be escalated by the FAA over the next few months. Inflight is implementing a mandatory manual blitz at all bases starting Monday, April 27, 2009, to ensure that manuals are in compliance. Please refer to Inflight Bulletin 09-63, dated April 24, 2009 for specific details regarding the manual blitz.

The Union Requests Information from Continental Flight Attendants – Recently the union has been made aware of incidents with galley coffee makers in which Continental Flight Attendants have received serious burns. If you or anyone you are aware of has had such an incident, please notify your base grievance representatives and provide them the details of the incident.

We would like to encourage all members to attend your Local Lodge business meeting. Each Local Lodge must have a quorum to conduct business. The following is a schedule for upcoming meetings:

Newark: Tuesday, May 12, 2009, 3:00 p.m. at the Renaissance Newark Airport Hotel

Cleveland: Thursday, May 14, 2009, 1:00 p.m. at 669 North Rocky River Drive

Houston: Tuesday, May 19, 2009, 1:00 p.m. at Houston Airport Marriott Hotel
May and June local lodge meetings will be held at the IAH Airport Marriott hotel. The name of the meeting room will be announced as soon as it is available.

Guam: Wednesday, May 20, 2009, 2009, 4:00 p.m. at the Airport Conference Room