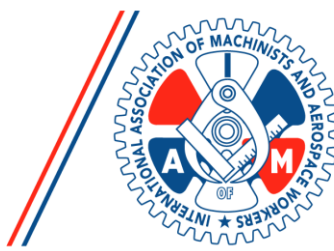


International  
Association of  
Machinists and  
Aerospace Workers



9000 Machinists Place  
Upper Marlboro, MD 20772-2687

Area Code 301  
967-4500



Office of the General Vice President

April 10, 2020

Re: COVID-19 Testing for Essential  
Transportation Workers

**Via electronic mail**

Robert Redfield, MD  
Director of the Centers for Disease Control  
and Prevention  
1600 Clifton Rd. NE  
Atlanta, GA 30333  
[olx1@cdc.gov](mailto:olx1@cdc.gov)

Dear Director Redfield:

I write you this letter today to express my grave concern regarding the lack of access to coronavirus testing for airline and rail workers. As you know, airline and rail employees have been deemed essential workers and must show up to work each and every day to ensure that critical medical supplies, essential consumer goods, US mail, and other essential workers and first responders are transported to where they are needed. Airline workers, in particular, are also responsible for repatriating approximately 50,000 US citizens from all corners of the globe. Air, rail, and transit workers are saving lives and entire communities.

While transportation workers have answered the call in the most patriotic and caring ways possible, they are also contracting the novel coronavirus at alarming rates. Sadly, some of these brave workers have died, others are currently fighting for their lives. The IAM has worked diligently with the carriers in which we have members and they have admirably instituted, and will institute, many safety and health procedures that have undoubtedly reduced the risk of IAM members contracting the novel coronavirus at work. However, we are very concerned that the lack of access to coronavirus testing is placing all essential transportation workers at increased risk of getting sick and then spreading the virus.

Under current federal testing guidelines, airline and rail workers cannot be tested for COVID-19 unless they are symptomatic. The CDC, furthermore, has warned that 25 percent of individuals who have contracted the novel coronavirus are asymptomatic. This creates a very dangerous situation for essential workers who must report to work, especially when that work requires interaction with the traveling public. Even with vigilant social distancing and appropriate PPE at the workplace, which is lacking across the country, having workers who have contracted the novel coronavirus and are asymptomatic or pre-symptomatic places them, their families, co-workers and the traveling public at risk. These essential employees could be infecting travelers who will then spread the virus across the country. This also increases the risk that an increasing

Robert Redfield, MD

April 10, 2020

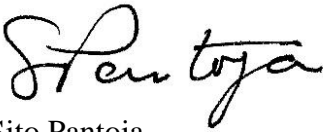
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amount of essential workers will get sick and not be able to perform their duties during this precarious time.

We request that all essential transportation workers, whether they work at the airport or on the nation's railroads and transit systems, have the right to obtain a coronavirus test even if they have no symptoms. By having this information, these heroic workers would be able to protect themselves, their families, and their co-workers and help stop the spread of the virus.

We owe these essential workers nothing less and we look forward to your prompt response.

Faternally,



Sito Pantoja  
GENERAL VICE PRESIDENT



Dave Supplee  
PRESIDENT/DIRECTING  
GENERAL CHAIRMAN, IAM DL 142



Mike Klemm  
PRESIDENT/DIRECTING  
GENERAL CHAIRMAN, IAM DL 141



Mike Perry  
PRESIDENT/DIRECTING  
GENERAL CHAIRMAN, IAM DL 19

cc: Robert Martinez, Jr., International President, IAM  
Richard Trumka, President, AFL-CIO  
Steven Cotton, General Secretary, International Transport Workers Federation  
Nicholas E. Calio, President and CEO, Airlines for America  
Ian Jefferies, CEO and President, Association of American Railroads