



August 14, 2020

The Honorable Ralph Northam
Governor
Commonwealth of Virginia
P.O. Box 1475
Richmond, VA 23218

Dear Governor Northam,

The Virginia Aviation Business Association (VABA) is the voice of business aviation in Virginia. Our members represent nearly every sector of the aviation and aerospace industry that, in turn, support thousands of Virginia jobs. We have enjoyed our close working relationship with you and your administration and therefore would like to take this opportunity to bring an important issue to your attention that we know will have a detrimental impact on our industry.

The Department of Labor and Industry (DOLI) recently published guidance and training materials designed to help Virginia businesses reopen while protecting both public health and the health of their employees. The Infectious Disease Plan Template contains guidance that recommends employee screening that would deny access to work for any employees who have traveled by airplane and request the employee quarantine for 14 days. It is not clear whether this guidance requires or merely suggests this type of screening.

While the VABA shares your goal of ensuring that our workplaces are safe for employees and customers, this recommendation is out of sync with public health best practices. It goes beyond the guidelines set forth in the July 15 Final Emergency Temporary Standard for Infectious Disease Prevention published by DOLI. Furthermore, the screening guidance is not supported by any public health agency, including the Centers for Disease Control and the Virginia Department of Health. Finally, the guidance singles out air travel for screening and quarantine, but completely ignores other forms of interstate travel such as bus, rail, and vehicle.

The VABA has worked with you on many important aviation issues and in doing so, have helped ensure that Virginia remains the nation's leader in business aviation. Given our experience working with your administration, we wonder if the provision regarding air travel in the Infectious Disease Plan Template was included in error. For these reasons, we respectfully request that your administration remove this language from all official guidance and continue to be consistent with federal guidelines regarding air travel.

Thank you for your attention to this important issue and all the good work you have done to address the COVID-19 pandemic. The VABA stands ready to help in any way possible.

Sincerely,

Daniel G. "Bud" Oakey
President, VABA

cc: Shannon Valentine
Brian Ball
Brian Moran