Project Title:	Pandemic Response, Recovery, and Preparedness Planning for Airport Security Operations (Phase 2)
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BACKGROUND

Airports throughout the U.S. have adapted their security regulatory operations in a variety of ways in response to the current pandemic. While the airport's security posture has remained a priority, methods for maintaining security compliance have been adjusted as necessary to protect employees, passengers, and stakeholders. These adjustments uncovered multiple peripheral factors for consideration to limit the spread of COVID-19 throughout compliance activities.

Commercial service airports of all sizes implemented changes in areas such as credentialing, SIDA training, badge control/audits, access control, employee inspections, passenger screening queues, and public area security. Airport operators made these changes with limited guidance, and must now evaluate the changes to determine lessons learned, successful practices, and available alternatives.

In addition, airports are now planning for recovery and incremental increases to operations. Guidance is needed to ensure recovery planning for the current pandemic is well informed, and to assist with long-term planning for future events resulting in a similar impact to operations.

OBJECTIVE

The objective of this research is to create comprehensive guidance to assist airports of all sizes in making informed decisions as the pandemic evolves to aid in recovery and long-term planning. In order to provide timely information to airports, the research will be phased.

Phase 1 (Complete)

The research during this phase will focus on relevant changes that have been implemented since the start of the pandemic and associated considerations for each. The resulting guidance should address process changes and related efforts regarding:

- Passenger impacts
  - Checkpoint queueing/distancing
  - Screening-related equipment cleaning
  - Signage and messaging
  - Mask compliance strategies
- Employee/Badge holder impacts
  - Safety protocols/PPE during the credentialing process
  - Safety protocols and changes to the employee inspections process (i.e., distancing, equipment cleaning, mask compliance)
  - Health screening/attestation requirements, including HIPAA/privacy considerations
  - Applicable policy/accountability requirements for businesses requiring credentialed access
  - Stakeholder engagement and timely communication of changes

        o   Initial and renewal SIDA training, including safeguards and delivery methods
- ASP impacts and considerations for program reduction/suspension
- Changes or ordinances related to public areas (limiting access, etc.)
- Ensuring compliance with evolving local and federal requirements

Phase 2

If the initial phase is deemed useful and the industry need remains, this subsequent phase will focus on strategies and practices for recovery and future planning. The resulting guidance should build upon the previous phase, and provide detailed strategies and planning considerations for:

- Queueing/reducing congestion at passenger screening and employee inspection locations
- Cleaning of equipment related to passenger screening, employee inspections, and access control points
- Reducing and subsequently recalling badge holders
- Leveraging technology for regulatory processes, including credentialing, access control, and auditing
- Conducting virtual activities such as tabletop exercises, inspections, and activation of the EOC, including privacy and cybersecurity considerations
- Timely evaluation of staff availability, including employee check-in/assessment options
- Applicable processes and strategies from international and non-aviation entities
- Ensuring security considerations are included in the Communicable Disease Response Plan
- Additional relevant topics identified during the first research phase