NEWS

JetBlue becomes first US airline to require passengers wear face masks

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. REUTERS/Fred Prouser/File Photo

JetBlue became the first US airline to require passengers to wear face coverings on flights to help prevent the spread of coronavirus.

The new policy goes into effect May 4 and comes after the airline began to require all crew members wear face masks on flights.

"Wearing a face covering isn't about protecting yourself it's about protecting those around you," said Joanna Geraghty, president and chief operating officer, JetBlue.

"This is the new flying etiquette. Onboard, cabin air is well circulated and cleaned through filters every few minutes but this is a shared space where we have to be considerate of others."

Costumers must wear face coverings over their nose and mouth –- during check-in, boarding, while in flight and deplaning.

The airline also said they were asking customers to follow the CDC guidelines in the airport as well.

Small children who are not able to maintain a face covering are exempt from this requirement.

JetBlue didn't clarify if the airline would provide protective gear for their passengers.

Earlier in the day, American Airlines announced they will provide face masks and sanitizing wipes for passengers. However, the airline did not make the masks a requirement for all passengers.

Delta Air Lines will also offer masks to passengers and require many employees to wear masks starting Tuesday.

Recently an American Airlines passenger described a full flight from Miami to LaGuardia with about only half of her fellow passengers wearing masks.

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