

No end in sight for Singapore's aviation woes

With Covid-19 infections hitting new highs, and countries forced to tighten restrictions or go into lockdown again, the prospects for the aviation industry in Singapore, and the world, remain grim. Here are some telling events.

MARCH

17 Jetstar Asia announces plans to ground entire fleet of 18 Airbus 320s from March 23.



22 Ministry of Health announces banning of short-term visitors from entering or transiting through Singapore starting from March 23, 11.59pm.

23 Singapore Airlines cuts 96 per cent of scheduled capacity, announces second round of pay cuts. 138 out of 147 SIA and SilkAir planes are grounded. Scoot suspends most of its network and grounds 47 out of 49 planes.

26 Deputy Prime Minister Heng Swee Keat unveils \$750 million aid package for industry. SIA announces aim to raise \$15 billion with support from Temasek.

APRIL

21 Jetstar Asia resumes some flights to Manila, Bangkok and Kuala Lumpur.

MAY

1 Changi Airport Terminal 2 suspends operations.

14 SIA announces first net loss in its 48-year history for the financial year ending March 31.

16 Operations suspended at Terminal 4.



JUNE

1 SIA announces plans to fly to 27 cities in June and July, up from the 15 previously planned for June. But despite the increase, 94 per cent of its scheduled passenger capacity remains cut.

2 Travellers are gradually allowed to transit through Changi Airport.



8 Launch of the Singapore-China fast lane to facilitate essential business and official travel between both countries.

16 Transport Minister Khaw Boon Wan says the mega Changi Airport T5 project will be paused for at least two years.

25 Jetstar Asia says it will cut its Singapore-based workforce by 26 per cent – about 180 people – from July. Most of its remaining staff will stay furloughed until end-2020. It also announces plans to remove five planes from its fleet of 18 aircraft.

JULY

10 SIA and SilkAir announce plans to add more flights; 93 per cent of capacity remains cut.