



SEA participates in a medical research project to validate the use of the rapid saliva test for Covid-19

Milan, 20 July 2020 - Today marks the start of the experimental project that SEA has decided to carry out together with the University of Insubria to test and validate the use of the **Rapid Saliva Test for Covid-19 testing**.

The trial will involve SEA employees, on a voluntary basis, and will include saliva and tear touch tests. Both innovative procedures have been developed in the laboratories of the Varese-based University.

SEA has decided to participate in this initiative in support of research because the successful outcome of the experiment would allow **the use of saliva tests at the airport also for passengers** and this could prove to be an important lever for the resumption of air transport.

The researchers have asked SEA, as operator of the Milan airports and therefore of a basin of particular epidemiological interest, to propose to its own people (up to 300) the participation in the test, thus becoming part of the experimentation sample, which will be addressed only to personnel resident in Lombardy, as the project was born in partnership with the relevant health facilities.

Having such a test, if validated, will allow, in case of a return of a COVID-19 pandemic in the cold months or in case of future viral pandemics, to have an essential weapon to perform **mass screening**. In fact, providing a result in a very short time (a few minutes, precisely), the test will identify positive tested people before they can enter a crowded place, including **airports and aircrafts**.

This is an initiative in support of medical research in which SEA has decided to participate also economically by financing the testing costs, which is useful both at individual level and for the community as a whole and whose results, if positive, could contribute to a faster recovery of the air transport sector.

"Participating in this experiment offers us an extraordinary opportunity - said Armando Brunini, CEO of SEA - If its outcome will be positive, as we hope, the prospect of carrying out the test in such a fast and less invasive way will be a great advantage to return to travel safely".