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Further in-flight emergencies due to sudden illnesses of pilots

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Airline flight crews, especially pilots, are among the most vaccinated occupational groups. They are also subject to the closest medical monitoring. Since the vaccination campaign, there have been repeated sudden and unexpected illnesses and even deaths. These incidents have now shifted to the younger age group of co-pilots.

incidents occurred, particularly among pilots, i.e., older generations. These included fatalities and long-term disability. More recently, illnesses appear to predominantly affect younger Following the start of vaccinations , first officers, which is consistent with trends in the general population. On July 1, 2025, the US Food and Drug Administration (FDA) took an unprecedented step and updated the safety information for the Pfizer and Moderna mRNA vaccines against SARS-CoV-2. The updated information now explicitly warns of an "[extremely high](#)" [risk of myocarditis](#) —a potentially life-threatening heart condition—in young men, a typical group of first officers in the cockpit.

Below are some selected examples of incidents that have occurred since November 2025, as [by Airliners for Humanity AT](#) . listed

[Air Seychelles On Air Seychelles flight HM49 from Mahé to Mauritius , First Officer incapacitated , the co-pilot became incapacitated. The captain on December 22 2025](#) : continued the flight and landed the Airbus A320-200N safely in Mauritius.

To carry out the return flight to Mahe, a replacement crew was brought to Mauritius.

[Skywest Captain incapacitated on February 2nd](#) : Skywest flight SKW3795 was en route from Minneapolis to Chicago. During the final approach, the captain, who was also piloting the aircraft, vomited and was unresponsive for several seconds.

The co-pilot took control, reported an in-flight emergency and landed the Embraer E175LR safely in Chicago.

[on February 3 Jet2 co-pilot loses consciousness on approach](#) : JET2 flight LS980 was en route from Lanzarote to Manchester when the first officer lost consciousness during the descent.

The captain reported an in-flight emergency, continued the approach and landed the Airbus A321 Neo safely in Manchester.

[Malta First Air duties Officer incapacitated . on February 6](#) : his A Malta Air Boeing 737-800 was operating Ryanair flight FR3202 from Manchester (Great Britain) to Rzeszów (Poland). During the flight, the co-pilot vomited and was unable to continue

The captain took control of the Boeing, continued the flight and landed the aircraft safely in Poland – without reporting an emergency.

The incident has been classified as serious and is under investigation.

[Easyjet First Officer . on 17 February](#) incapacitated : On Easyjet flight U22268 from Gibraltar to Manchester, the co-pilot became incapacitated during the descent

The captain reported an in-flight emergency and landed the plane safely in Manchester.