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PSYCHOLOGICAL SCREENINGS FOR SPACEFLIGHT PARTICIPANTS IN SHORT-DURATION  
SUBORBITAL FLIGHTS

**Abstract**

As the commercial spaceflight industry grows in nature due to technological advancements, commercial space tourism (CST) is no longer a thing of the past. With CST operators such as Blue Origin and Virgin Galactic providing short-duration suborbital flights to individuals willing and able to pay for them, the concept of the Spaceflight Participant (SFP) is more prevalent than ever. With the increase in space tourism on the rise, understanding the psychological risks of such a flight is of the utmost importance. Due to the less stringent nature of requirements set into place for SFPs, both regulatory requirements and the requirements of CST operators, having psychological screening standards set into place for SFPs would help reduce potentially negative psychological impacts on unaware SFPs during or following a flight. Current regulations are lacking in this field, leaving CST operators to essentially create their own psychological screening processes for admitting potential SFPs. This paper utilizes currently available psychological reactions to suborbital spaceflight, related industry practices and health-risk mitigation techniques to provide psychological screening recommendations for CST operators in lieu of standardized requirements for SFP psychological screenings.