International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO) Cooperative Arrangement for the Prevention of Spread of Communicable Disease through Air Travel (CAPSCA)
Elluminate Session, 11am -1pm, April 30, 2012
Summary notes

Participants
Cayman Islands Civil Aviation Airport Authority
Cayman Islands Ministry of Health
Edward Gilkes – Antigua and Barbuda Airport Authority
Aisha Andrewin – Ministry of Health, Belize
Trinidad and Tobago Ministry of Health
Bermuda participants
Chief Aviation Officer – St. Lucia
Sonia Copeland – Ministry of health, Jamaica
Director of Operations (MBIA) Point Salines, Grenada
Bernard Scott – Chief Air Traffic Controller, St. Vincent and the Grenadines
Shamdeo Persaud – Chief Medical Officer, Guyana
Michiel Vreedenburgh – ICAO
Donald McPhail - Eastern Caribbean Civil Aviation Authority
Gerado De Cosio – PWR, PAHO Belize office
Michael Pitts, Jorge, Polanco, John Bodden - Belize Ministry of Health
Mr. Torres, Sean Young – Belize Civil Aviation
Zoila Fletcher – Guyana PAHO office
PAHO Jamaica office
PAHO Suriname office
Roberta Andraghetti – PAHO, Washington DC
Stephen Harte – PWR-ECC Office
Leslie Edwards – CAREC

Moderator
Eldonna Boisson

Agenda
Welcome and Introduction - Dr. Boisson
CAPSCA partnerships in the Region - Mr. Harte
Brief Remarks - Mr. McPhail
Over View of CAPSCA - Mr. Vreedenburgh
Brief Question session
Barbados’ Experience with CAPSCA - Mr. Harte for Dr. Singh, MoH Barbados
Questions and Discussion

Summary
Background
During a breakfast meeting of Caribbean delegates in a meeting on International Health Regulations held in Mexico in September, 2011, there was discussion and interest about the International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO) Cooperative Agreement for the Prevention of the Spread of Communicable Diseases through Air Travel (CAPSCA) and we agreed to make more information available to countries that are not already members of CAPSCA. That was the objective of this Elluminate session.
**Discussions**

Following the presentations there was much discussion. The key points that arose in the discussion are detailed below.

Mr. Vreedenburgh clarified that CAPSCA is the UN arm of civil arm of aviation and works in collaboration with the World Health Organization (WHO). All OECS countries have already agreed to join CAPSCA, but not all have confirmed their membership. At this time Dr. Manoharsingh in the Ministry of Health Barbados is the vice-chair of CAPSCA. Following the presentation on CAPSCA and the benefits of membership for countries, Mr. Vreedenburgh confirmed that at this time, due to a grant from the UN, membership to CAPSCA is free for all countries. However, he could not confirm how long this would last. He therefore suggested that it was a good idea for countries wanting to join CAPSCA to do so at this time to take advantage of the available funds. Territories can also apply directly to CAPSCA for membership. Countries can receive benefits from CAPSCA, even if not members of ICAO, but Ministries of Health and ICAO focal points are encouraged to work together and collaborate.

Mr. Vreedenburgh also informed that among the English speaking Caribbean CAPSCA member states, three (Bahamas, Belize and Trinidad and Tobago) are scheduled to receive visits from CAPSCA during 2012. Further details of the purpose of and activities in these visits can be found in the presentation. It was noted that the 4th CAPSCA in the Americas and 3rd CAPSCA Global Meeting will be held in Chile on October 8-12, 2012.

The regional IHR focal point, Dr. Andraghetti reminded participants that June 2012 is the deadline for submissions of requests for extension of implementation of IHR. It is important that countries include the names of their designated points of entry (1 seaport and 1 airport per country was suggested), indicating if they have achieved capacity in compliance with IHR and a plan for doing so if they have not. WHO nor CAPSCA are involved in certification or designation of points of entry, this is a country responsibility. Also, neither WHO nor CAPSCA have a database of designated points of entry at this time. However, WHO has a database of authorized ports which is available on the website.

A Ministry of Health representative from one country expressed concern that there is a lack of coordination between the CAPSCA focal point and the Ministry of Health and suggested that PAHO be called upon to bring the two entities together to clarify roles. It was stated that the surveillance system works well with the seaports, with public health officers boarding ships to check for ill persons and liaising with the Ministry of Health as necessary. However, surveillance at the airports requires the volunteering of information on ill persons on board aircrafts and it does not work very well. The regional IHR focal point suggested that this would be best handled at the national level and would liaise with the relevant PWR office on this matter.

Dr. Andraghetti confirmed that there is no IHR requirement or obligation to monitor passenger information forms. The introduction and use of passenger information cards/forms should be an in-country decision supported by capacity to respond. There is also nothing specific in IHR re the handling of human remains, but Dr. Andraghetti will follow-up and share any information on this that may be available.

**Reference information**
The CAPSCA website is: [www.capsca.org](http://www.capsca.org)

ICAO Member States can be found at: [http://www.icao.int/MemberStates/Member%20States.Multilingual.pdf](http://www.icao.int/MemberStates/Member%20States.Multilingual.pdf)
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