Cooperative Arrangement for Preventing the Spread of Communicable Diseases through Air Travel

Seminar / Workshop / Table-Top Exercise

Cairo, Egypt

11th to 16th December 2011
Preparedness Planning for a Public Health Emergency

Scenario Planning & Guidelines Development
In preparing for a Public Health Emergency (of International Concern) and to mitigate its consequences..... **Layered Defense** approach
Layered Defence

International Mitigation

• Containment
• Mitigation
• Exit Screening
• Entry Screening

WHO
ICAO
(CAPSCA)

“Affected” State

Other UN Orgs / Agencies

ACI / IATA/Other Orgs

Other UN Orgs / Agencies

ACI / IATA/Other Orgs
Layered Defence

Regional / State / Administration Level Measures
Layered Defence

State Public Health Emergency Plan

Points of Entry

Cairo International Airport
Preparedness Planning for a Public Health Emergency

Scenario Planning & Guidelines Development
1. Departing Passengers

- Web based
- Phone booking
- Travel agents
- Airline

**Advisory Message**: According to Phase of Epidemic/ Pandemic (WHO)
In Phase III and below:

*Educate and Prepare the public:

“*Do Not Travel* If You Have A *Communicable Disease*”

*Prime the Travel Industry

Sample Message:

Passengers are advised not to travel if they are ill or suspect that they may have a communicable disease. You may not be allowed to board the flight if it is suspected that you have a communicable disease. If in doubt contact your doctor for advise.
Should I take the flight?
Sample Message: Screening for avian flu is in place at XXX airport. Passengers with symptoms of flu will not be allowed to enter the airport and will not be checked in or allowed to board any flight. If in doubt please contact your doctor before proceeding with your travel plans.

**If you have been in ............(name of place with outbreak) in the last (?week) please seek your doctor’s advise before making any travel plans.
(b) Travel plans made / Ticket Purchased

• Arrival at airport: **Phase Dependant**

i) **Before entry to airport** (Depending on Phase)
   - Appropriate Advisory Signs/Display boards/Messages
   - Screening prior to entry to airport (if outbreak has occurred in State) -- ? Questionnaire for symptoms and if coming from outbreak area.

? Feasible?

? Responsibility?

Positive

No Entry. Refer to secondary screening

Negative

Proceed to Check-in

PPE for staff & suspect passengers
ii) At Check-in:

• Appropriate Advisory Signs/Display boards/ Voice Messages over airport Public Address system

If Screening has not been done:

• ? Screening prior to entry to airside (if outbreak has occurred in State)

? Questionnaire:

• for symptoms and

• if coming from outbreak area.

Appropriate PPE for Check-in staff and suspect passengers
What is the role of temperature screening in relation to the clinical features of disease?

Incubation period of X days

Infectious XX days before onset of symptoms

Situation may change as more epidemiological data is accumulated.

Key Role For **WHO & CDC** to screen or not to screen
To Screen

Or Not To Screen
PREVENT / MITIGATE “EXPORT” & “IMPORT” OF CASES / SUSPECT CASES

Departure Screening or Arrival Screening
2. Aircraft Departs

Suspect case picked up soon after departure

Possible Scenarios:

- Has to return to departure airport
- Has to return to alternate airport
- Has to be diverted to another airport
- Continue to destination airport

*Treat As For Arriving Aircraft With Suspect Case On Board*
3. Transit Passengers

? Need for screening

If screened at departure \(\rightarrow\) No Need

Within Transit Area? Need For:

Appropriate Advisory Signs / Display boards / Voice Messages over Airport Public Address system
4. Arriving Passengers

Phase Dependant

Phase III & Below

? Need For Precautionary Messages

Eg.; Advise on areas where communicable disease (avian flu) outbreaks have occurred; avoidance of contact with poultry / birds; avoid rural areas etc.

? Target Passengers:

• For all passengers
• Only those arriving from outbreak areas

? How

• In aircraft
• On arrival

• In Flight Magazine
• Pamphlets
• Cards
Phase IV and Above

? Screening Methods

? Only Aircraft Arriving From Outbreak Areas
? All Aircraft

• Questionnaire
• Temperature Screening

Is Screening Effective And The Cost Justified?
5. In-Flight Suspect Case/s of Avian Flu

Measures to be taken in the aircraft by Crew for

• Themselves
• Suspect passenger/s
• Other Passengers

• PPE for Crew and Passengers

• Segregation of Suspect Pax

Timely Information To Airport Where Flight Is Expected To Land
6. Arriving Aircraft With Suspect Case/s On Board

- Measures for suspect case/s
- Measures for other passengers
- Measures for Crew
- Disinfection of aircraft
- Baggage
- Ramp workers
- Others

Segregation from suspect case
Advisory information
Possible Quarantine

National Health Authority

- Secondary Screening
- Designated Ambulance/s
- Designated Hospital/s
7. Airport Workers & Airline Workers

- Protection of airport workers
- Preventive strategies for airport workers
  - What happens when airport worker/s fall ill with prevailing PHE
  - Contingency plans

- Education & Basic Hygiene Measures
  - “Front Line” staff -- for priority in vaccination programs
  - Screening measures prior to reporting for work
8. Any place for guidelines on closure of an airport

Closure of an airport should not be considered except as a last resort in extreme situations

Within or in close proximity to area of outbreak

Role of ICAO and other international bodies

Ref. IHR and ICAO Annex 9
Contracting states should **NOT** close their airspace to aircraft when they become aware or have reason to suspect that the aircraft has suspect case/s of communicable disease on board.

Ref. ICAO Annex 9

IHR articles 28.1 & 28.2
10. ? Denial to land in the event of suspect case/s on board

Role of WHO/ICAO and other international bodies

Contracting states should **NOT** deny an aircraft from landing merely because the aircraft may have one or more suspect cases of communicable disease on board. If an airport does not have the facilities to handle such a situation, its contingency plan should allow for diversion of the aircraft to an airport that has the relevant facilities.
11. Communications

- Point/s of contact
- Methods
- Ease
- Speed

ICAO

WHO

CDC

IATA

ACI

Contracting States

Public Health Authority / Airports & Airlines
12. Stockpiling of anti-viral drugs

& Other preventive measures eg. Flu vaccination

Catering to airline crew and airport workers --- ? Need for Guidance to National Authorities

If anti-viral drugs are being stockpiled by contracting states, airline and airport workers, as well as air traffic controllers should be given the appropriate priority in the distribution plan. The meeting supports other recommended preventive measures put in place by state public health authorities such as vaccination.
13. Contact Tracing

Need for minimum contact information required for contact tracing?

Harmonised Contact Tracing Form/Card

• Name
• Contact Address - In country of origin
  - At destination
• Contact Telephone Number
14. Personal Protective Equipment

* Guidance for airport workers and airline crew

* Advise to passengers
  
  • Need for standardization
  
  • Cater to mode of spread; Who needs to wear; What needs to be worn

PPE appropriate to the phase of the communicable disease, the mode of spread and the nature of duties being performed by aviation personnel, should be worn.

For many communicable diseases, disposal gloves and good hand hygiene (at times in combination with surgical masks) are usually sufficient unless otherwise specified by the national public health authority.
15. Any Additional Triggers for the Aviation Industry

To implement screening and other measures

Aside from **WHO** Phase changes
16. Any Other Issues
Working Group: Development of Guidelines
CAPSCA Guidelines Development

- **WHO** Pandemic Preparedness Guidelines
- ICAO Annex 9
  - Annexes 6, 11, 14
- ACI, IATA, CDC & Other expert agencies
- States
- IHRs
- WHO Rapid Containment Strategy
- Joint WHO-ICAO-IATA-ACI Guidelines

National Public Health

Aviation Public Health

Emergency Preparedness Plan
Thank you for your kind attention!

Questions?

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