

Bulletin on Influenza A (H1N1 virus)

IATA coordinates its external activities on disease outbreaks and pandemics through IATA's Medical Advisor and Corporate Communications.

The IATA Medical Advisor works in close cooperation with the World Health Organization (WHO), the World Organization for Animal Health (OIE) and the International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO) to develop appropriate guidelines related to disease outbreaks. These guidelines and any recommendations are then provided to IATA Cargo for dissemination and implementation by IATA member airlines.

IATA herewith advises the cargo representatives of member air carriers to cooperate with the Public Health Authorities to ensure the safe and rapid transport of specimens.

Guidelines to help member airlines cope with health and safety issues

IATA's Medical Advisory Group develops a series of guidelines addressing general medical issues, including Questions and Answers. These are located on the [Aviation and Communicable Diseases](#) page. The guidelines are meant to help airlines address emergency public health issues, particularly in the case of suspected communicable diseases.

For further questions, please contact [IATA's medical advisor](#).

Emergency response template for air carriers

Download the PDF form from the [Aviation and Communicable Diseases](#) page.

Emergency response for cargo specific issues

In case of human disease outbreaks, specimens are dispatched to WHO reference laboratories for identification purposes. These laboratories are located in Australia, Japan, the United Kingdom and the United States. It is critical for specimens being sent for analysis to arrive at their destination as quickly as possible. For animal diseases or those where the animal is the host specimens are sent to the OIE reference laboratories.

Provided that specimens are prepared in accordance with the requirements set out in the IATA Dangerous Goods Regulations (DGR) then transportation by air should not affect timely deliveries. Specific information relating to the transport of infectious substances is available on the [Infectious Substances](#) page.

Pig meat and meat products processed and packaged for international trade do not present a risk to carriers or to passengers and these products, according to available information, do not present a health risk to consumers.

As with any infectious disease, the movement of live animals may present a different level of risk. For the moment, the North American H1N1 influenza virus has not been demonstrated in pigs (including in Mexico). However, the OIE is monitoring the situation and will participate in scientific investigations in animals in order to know if the virus circulating in humans is able to infect animals. Depending on how the situation develops, for example, if the virus was shown to be circulating in pigs in zones of countries where human infection has been reporting, the OIE will issue further advice on appropriate measures for international trade in live pigs.