



# Traveller Health Declaration Documents Harmonization is Needed

## Health Related Information amidst the COVID-19

To mitigate the impact of the COVID-19, some States are collecting additional information on passengers including on their health. The data currently being collected is self-declarative, and include a person's identity, health conditions, contact details for tracing purposes and travel history. Such data has also been collected during previous international health outbreaks.

However, the global scale and the pace of the COVID-19 spreading has led to a rapid accumulation of uncoordinated measures that are challenging to manage effectively by aircraft operators, notably the collection of Health Declaration Forms. Carriers are often required to distribute such a form to their passengers. This additional task can be eased through a greater harmonization of all processes and data that are required by authorities.

To prevent the risk of transmission, IATA favours the development of government web portals dedicated to collect passenger health data and other digital solutions that passengers may access prior to departure or on arrival. Harmonization of the health data fields would facilitate the development of these paperless solutions by allowing passengers to pre-fill the information off-line.

In this context, IATA is calling for a harmonized health declarative document that would include a globally recognized set of data. Such harmonization will facilitate effective implementation of this temporary measure. IATA does recognize however that processes should become paperless to reduce the risk of virus transmission and to reduce the challenges of authorities in acting on data entered manually.

## Benefits of Harmonization

A standardized Health Declaration Form set forth by World Health Organization (WHO) and the Prevention and Management of Public Health Events in Civil Aviation (CAPSCA) programme had been developed during past health outbreak, notably for the Ebola crisis. ICAO also makes available a Public Health Passenger Locator Form in the Appendix 13 of Annex 9 – *Facilitation*.

However, a standardized form or standardized set of data have not been developed to address the information required in the context of the COVID-19. The passenger data currently collected by authorities are diverse, but typically revolve around:

- Passenger identity
- Travel information
- Contact details
- Medical information including symptoms questionnaire
- Travel history

In order to accelerate the development of a standardized form, IATA has cross-referenced the fields used in a dozen of Health Declaration Form currently being used and an initial set of data is proposed in **Annex A**.

Harmonization of the data fields present benefits for the solutions, paper-based or digital, that are proposed by governments:

- It will enable the use of only one form globally. This will ease its distribution by various stakeholders, including carriers which are currently required to distribute different types of forms and tear-sheet to passengers depending on the transit/destination countries;
- Such a form would be easier to translate and ultimately enable the reach out a wider traveling population;
- As travelers become increasingly familiar with the same data fields to be completed from one country to the other, this will improve the data quality;
- Harmonization of a set of data fields would enable a more automated process for passenger to provide their data. This would take the form of an electronic submission (web service) of the form from third party applications. With this solution, third party applications would be enabled to send the data on behalf of the passenger the same way a browser does it when the passenger is using a web portal.
- Such harmonization will create synergy opportunities to reduce the development and running costs of existing web portals and open the opportunity for groups of states to have a shared portal.
- Having the data field and data structure aligned could allow customer centric application to store the persistent information from previous form submission and reuse it for future travel to different destinations.

## IATA's Position

The harmonization of the data elements for a travel health form will ease the immediate administrative and operational burdens on carriers that distribute the Health Declarative Form to their passengers.

Such harmonization will assist the deployment of automated and paperless solutions and favour the direct exchange of information between passengers and authorities. IATA favours the setup of dedicated government web portals to collect the required additional health information over the paper-based declarations. Paper-based forms, further to increasing the risks of contamination, are cumbersome to store and resource intensive to act on compare to digital information.

## Annex A Proposed Data Fields<sup>1</sup>

Data elements commonly used, mandatory (M) for the passenger to fill or optional (O):

### 1- Passenger identity

- First name: M
- Last name: M
- Nationality: M
- Date of birth: M [format YYYY - MM - DD]
- Gender: M
- Travel Document number: M
- Issuing authority: M
- Expiry date: M

### 2- Travel information

- Date of arrival: M
- Date of departure: M
- Last city/port of embarkation: M
- Port of entry: M
- Mode of Travel: M
- Flight number: M
- Seat number: O [if known ahead of the trip]

#### Travel Companions - Family

1) <u>Last (Family) Name: M</u>	<u>First (Given) Name: M</u>	<u>Seat Number: O [if known ahead of the trip]</u>	<u>Age &lt;18</u>
2) <u>Last (Family) Name: M</u>	<u>First (Given) Name: M</u>	<u>Seat Number: O [if known ahead of the trip]</u>	<u>Age &lt;18</u>
3) <u>Last (Family) Name: M</u>	<u>First (Given) Name: M</u>	<u>Seat Number: O [if known ahead of the trip]</u>	<u>Age &lt;18</u>
4) <u>Last (Family) Name: M</u>	<u>First (Given) Name: M</u>	<u>Seat Number: O [if known ahead of the trip]</u>	<u>Age &lt;18</u>

<sup>1</sup> Based on the cross-referencing of health data requirements of the following countries and form set forward by international organizations:

### 3- Contact information

#### Address of stay

- Hotel/Residence name: O
- Street name: M
- Street number: M
- Postal code: M
- Province: M (if applicable)

#### Home address

- Residence name: O
- Street name: M
- Street number: M
- Postal code: M
- Province: M (if applicable)
- Country: M

#### Other contact information:

- Email address: M
- Confirm Email address: M
- Primary Mobile phone number: M - country code – mobile number
- Secondary phone number: O– country code – phone number

### 4- Medical information

#### Symptoms

Symptoms	Yes	No
Fever		
Cough		
Difficulty of breathing		
Sore throat		
Running nose		

#### History of exposure

Within the past 14 days, have you, or has any person listed above:

- Had close contact with anyone diagnosed as having coronavirus COVID-19? M
- Have yourself been diagnosed by COVID-19? M
- If yes, when was the infection detected? [M if answer to the above question is yes] - [YYYY-MM-DD]

## 5- Travel history

List of the countries visited the last 14 days prior to arrival

Country	Date of arrival [YYYY-MM-DD]	Date of Departure [YYYY-MM-DD]
Country name A		
Country name B		
Country name C		