



Suspected Communicable Disease

Guidelines for passenger agents

The following are guidelines for passenger agents who may be faced with a suspected case of communicable disease at the airport.

During an outbreak of a specific communicable disease, the World Health Organization (WHO) or member states, in collaboration with IATA, may modify or add further procedures to these guidelines.

A communicable disease is suspected when a traveler:

- Has a visible skin rash or,
- Has a severe cough or,
- Is obviously unwell and/or,
- Complains of any of the following:
 - Severe cough
 - Fever
 - Bruising or bleeding without previous injury
 - Persistent diarrhoea
 - Skin rash (non visible)
 - Persistent vomiting

Most of these signs and/or symptoms may not be obvious at the counter. However, when in doubt regarding the health of a traveler, especially during an outbreak, refer to the airline procedures.

1. Call your supervisor.
2. If the supervisor agrees with your concerns and if medical support is available (own medical department or outside designated physician or group) contact that support immediately.
3. If the supervisor agrees with your concerns but medical support is not immediately available, deny boarding and ask the traveler to obtain medical clearance in accordance with your airline's policy. For some countries you may also have to involve the company's Customer Complaint Resolution Official (CCRO).
4. If assistance is required to escort a sick traveler, and if the sick traveler is coughing, ask him/her to wear a face mask. If no mask is available or the sick traveler cannot tolerate the mask, e.g. because of breathing difficulties, provide tissues and ask him/her to cover the mouth and nose when coughing, sneezing or talking.



If masks are available but the sick traveler cannot tolerate a mask and the airline recommends that designated passenger agents should do so under those circumstances, the airline should ensure that their passenger agents have adequate training in its use to ensure they do not increase the risk (for example by more frequent hand-face contact or adjusting and removing the mask).