

# Considerations on Quarantine

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## Overview

- Measures to reduce the risk of importing COVID-19
- Measures to reduce the impact of importation  
(reducing the risk of transmission)
- Practical issues and considerations

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**Central question – how to reduce the risk of a receiving State seeing a spike in new infections without the need for quarantine.**

**We are proposing a two-step risk mitigation approach:**

- Reducing the risk of importing infected passengers into the country
- Reducing the risk of any infected passengers that do travel passing the virus to other travelers or into the wider community

# Reducing the risk of importing COVID-19

- **Discouraging symptomatic passengers from traveling**
  - Airlines offering rebooking flexibility
- **Public Health Risk Mitigation measures**
  - Health Declarations: Contactless, using government apps / portals
  - Health Screening: Symptom screening, temperature checks etc.
- **COVID-19 testing for travelers from 'higher risk' countries**
  - Prior to travel – within 24 hours
  - Wide availability; very high levels of accuracy; non-intrusive
  - Independently validated; mutually recognized

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The first suite of measures are those intended to mitigate the risk of importing COVID into the destination country.

## Discouraging symptomatic passengers from traveling

- Airlines want passengers to feel able to book with confidence
- Also they do not want air travel to be a vector of transmission
- Therefore many airlines are offering considerable rebooking flexibility

## Public Health Risk Mitigation measures

- Measures such as health declarations can support a risk-based approach
- Temperature checks may screen out some travelers and act as a deterrent for others

## Testing

- Covered in detail last week, but to recap...
- Testing should not be a blanket solution or the availability of a rapid point-of-care test a prerequisite / barrier to restart
- But may have a role to play for travelers from higher risk markets

- **If testing is required, there are number of criteria that a testing solution should meet**
  - Testing should be prior to travel – passengers arrive at the airport travel ready, enable passengers who cannot travel to rebook etc from home, minimize congestion / delays at the airport. Testing should take place within 24 hours.
  - Testing needs to be widely available; the test needs to have very high levels of accuracy and ideally it should be non-intrusive – saliva-based testing is ideal for passenger acceptance
  - Testing needs to be independently validated to support mutual recognition so that a test prior to travel will be acceptable on arrival

# Reducing the impact of importing COVID-19

- **Reducing the risk of transmission during the air travel journey**
  - ICAO *Take-Off* Guidance;
  - Temporary, multi-layered approach
- **Contact Tracing**
  - Rapid identification and isolation of contacts
  - Use of technology can help large-scale implementation
- **Reducing Risk of Transmission at Destination**
  - In country mitigation measures
  - Travel and Tourism specific procedures

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The second set of measures related to reducing the impact in case there is importation. In other words how to reduce the risk of an infected passenger transmitting the disease, and particularly into the community

## Reducing the risk of transmission during the air travel journey

- Covered in detail in previous briefing sessions, so not a focus of this discussion
- IATA continues to encourage States to adopt and implement the multi-layered suite of measures set out in the ICAO *Take-Off* guidance, and already largely reflected in EASA guidance

## Contact tracing

- While the main focus of the strategy is to reduce the number of passengers traveling while infectious, an important back up is to be able to rapidly identify and trace the contacts of anyone who is discovered to be infectious
- This is a tried and tested public health measure, that is being augmented with the use of technology

## Reducing the risk of transmission at destination

- The final set of measures are those applied in country.
- This includes the general measures that apply to all citizens
- In addition, the travel and tourism industry has drawn up a series of procedures to make staying in hotels, eating in restaurants and visiting tourist attractions as safe as possible.

## Practical Issues and Considerations

- **Sharing of data**
  - Required for health declarations, test results, contact tracing
  - Raises data privacy concerns
  - Sharing of data should be between passengers and governments
  - Contactless technology should be used where possible

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- There are some practical hurdles to address. Of these, the most significant relates to the sharing of data.
- Clearly this is critical to the implementation of health declarations, testing prior to travel as well as contact tracing
- Because of the data privacy concerns, it is right and proper that transmission should be between passengers and governments
- Electronic transmission methods are preferably, especially those that are contactless such as government web portals or apps
- Not only does it avoid one possible source of infection risk, but it also avoids paper forms, reduces delays and also the risk of processing errors.